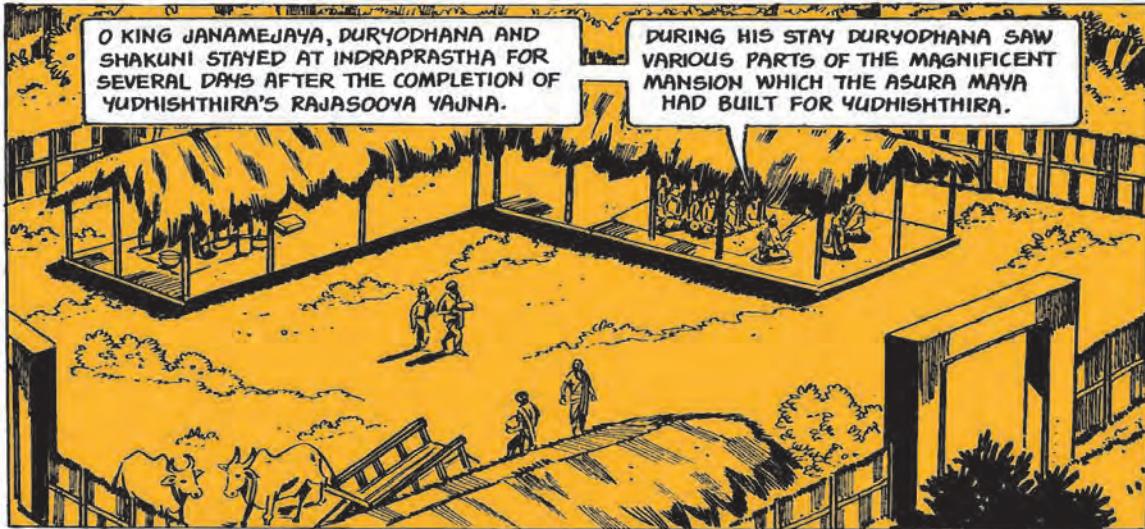


Mahabharata - 18

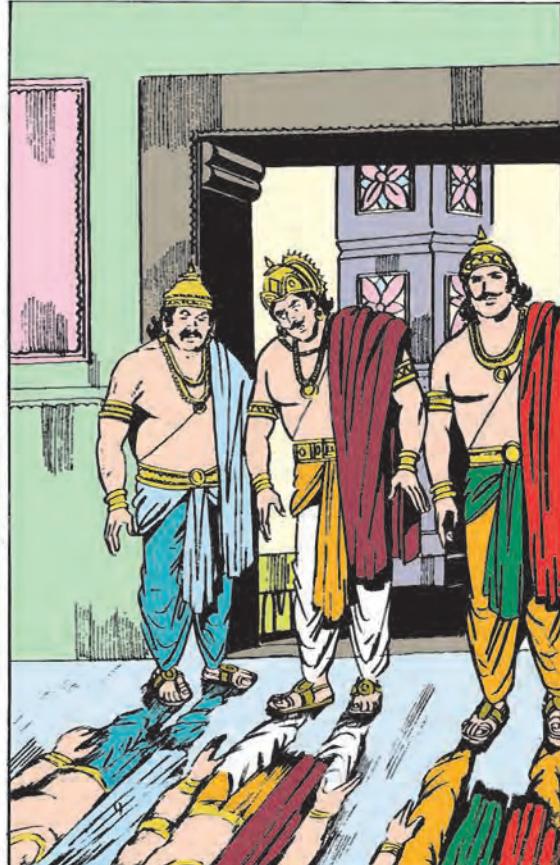
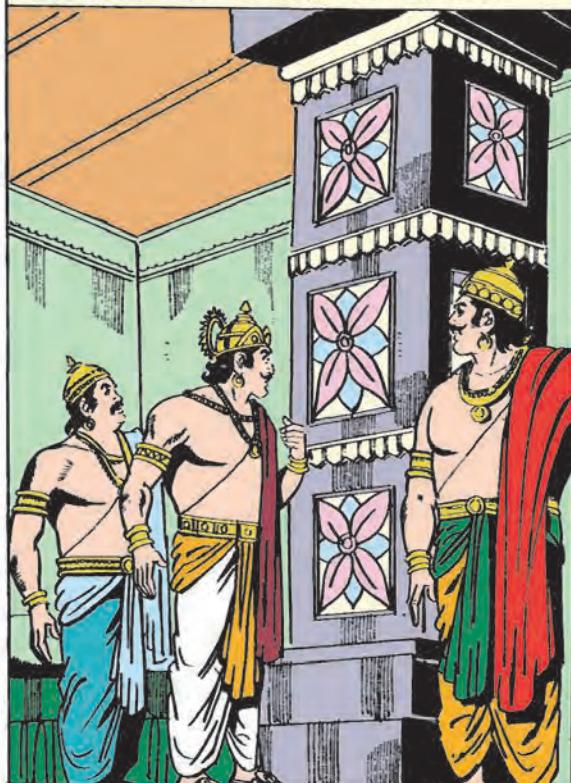
INDAPRASTHA LOST

O KING JANAMEJAYA, DURYODHANA AND SHAKUNI STAYED AT INDAPRASTHA FOR SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF YUDHISHTHIRA'S RAJASOOYA YAJNA.

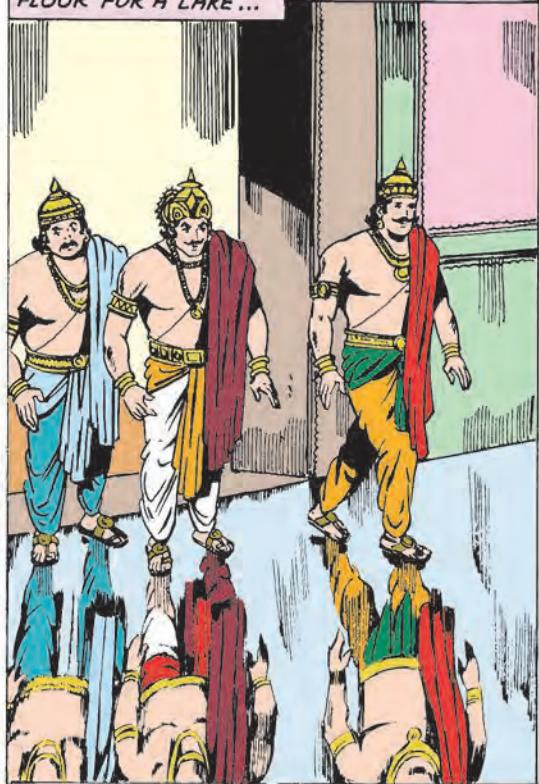
DURING HIS STAY DURYODHANA SAW VARIOUS PARTS OF THE MAGNIFICENT MANSION WHICH THE ASURA MAYA HAD BUILT FOR YUDHISHTHIRA.



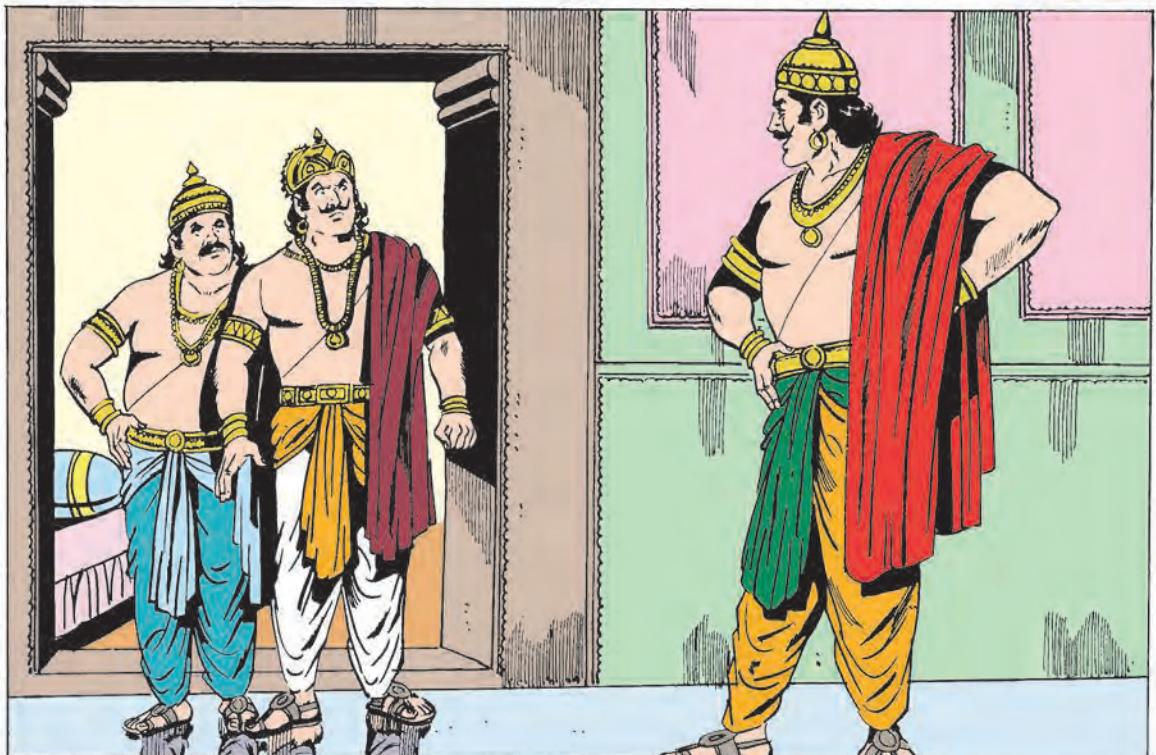
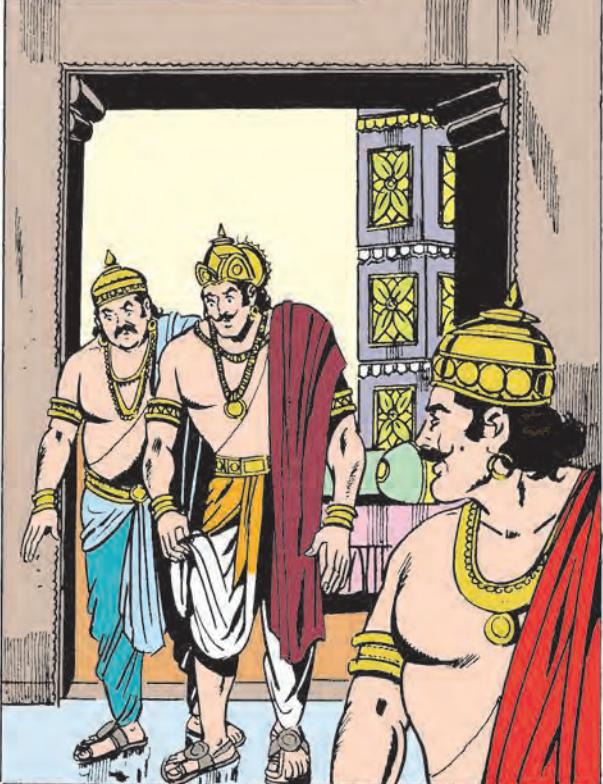
"IN THAT MANSION DURYODHANA BEHELD WONDROUS OBJECTS WHICH HE HAD NEVER SEEN IN HIS OWN CAPITAL HASTINAPURA.



"WHILE ON THE ROUNDS OF THE PALACE,
DURYODHANA MISTOOK A POLISHED CRYSTAL
FLOOR FOR A LAKE ...



"... AND TUCKED UP HIS GARMENTS IN ORDER
NOT TO MAKE THEM WET."



THEN, A LITTLE AHEAD, MISTAKING A LOTUS POND FOR A FLOOR PAVED WITH STONE ...



"... DURYODHANA STEPPED INTO THE WATER AND FELL IN IT.

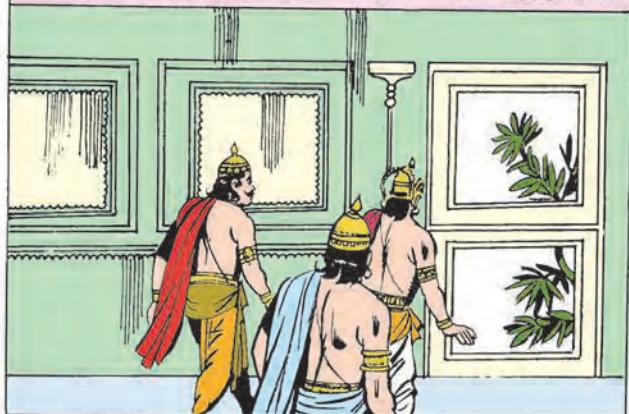


THIS EVOKED LAUGHTER FROM NOT ONLY BHEEMA...

... BUT ALSO THE OTHER PANDAVAS.



"ELSEWHERE IN THE MANSION HE STOOD BEFORE AN OPEN ROOM THINKING THAT IT WAS CLOSED..."



"... AND BANGED HIS HEAD WHEN HE MISTOOK A SECTION OF THE WALL FOR AN OPEN DOOR.



NAKULA AND SAHADEVA RUSHED AHEAD TO SUPPORT HIM. BHEEMA HAD A HEARTY LAUGH.



O KING,
THAT IS
THE
DOOR.

O SON OF
DHRITARASHTRA,
THAT IS THE
DOOR.

DURYODHANA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA FILLED WITH ENVY FOR THE FABULOUS WEALTH OF THE PANDAVAS AND SMARTING UNDER THE HUMILIATION HE SUFFERED AT INDRA-PRASTHA.

"THE PROSPERITY OF THE PANDAVAS FURTHER VITIATED THE MIND OF DURYODHANA.

O UNCLE,
BEHOLDING THE
GLORIOUS WEALTH
OF THE PANDAVAS,
I AM BURNING WITH
RESENTMENT.

WHO AMONG THE
MIGHTY WILL
TOLERATE AN ENEMY
PROSPERING?

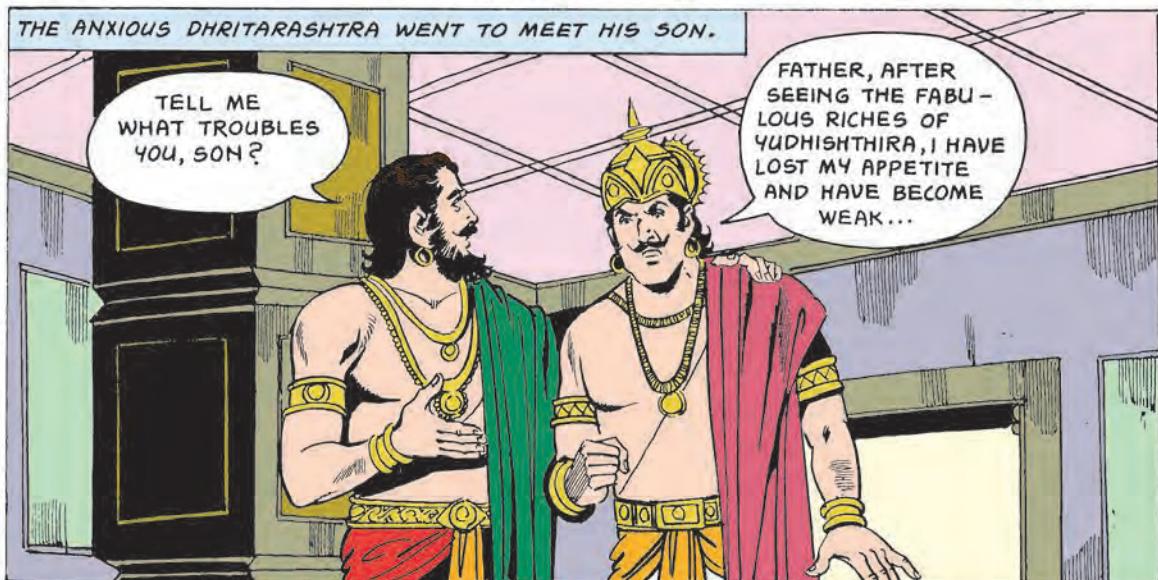
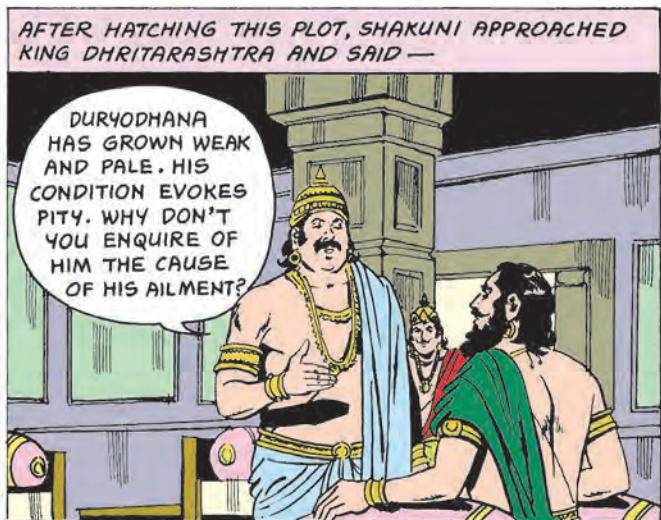
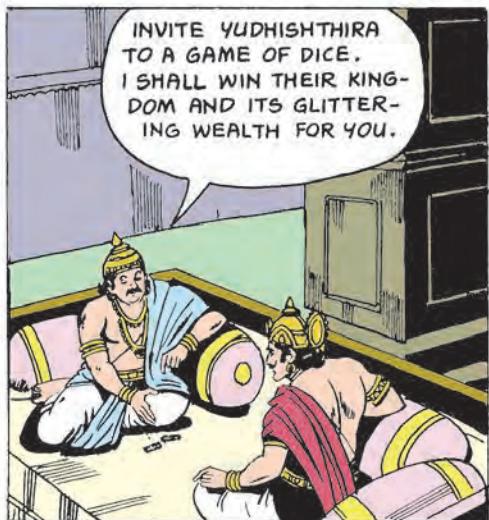
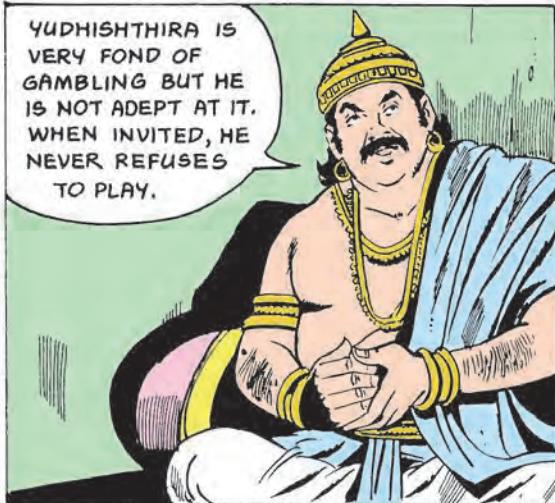
GIVE ME YOUR CON-
SENT. I WILL SUBDUE
THE PANDAVAS WITH
THE HELP OF OUR
VALIANT ALLIES.

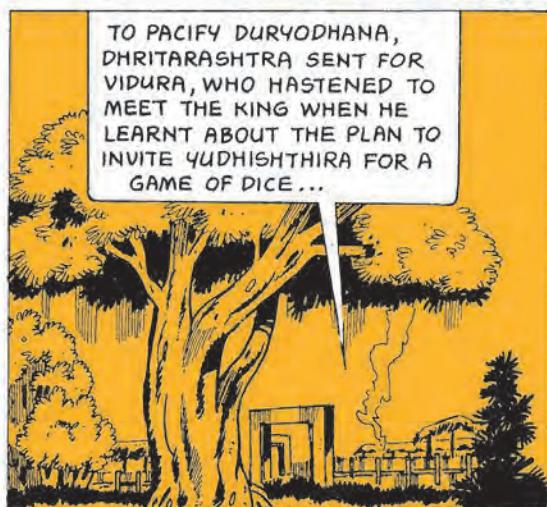
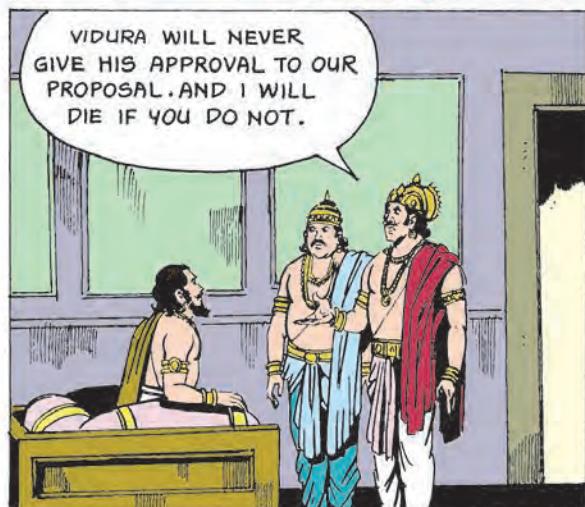
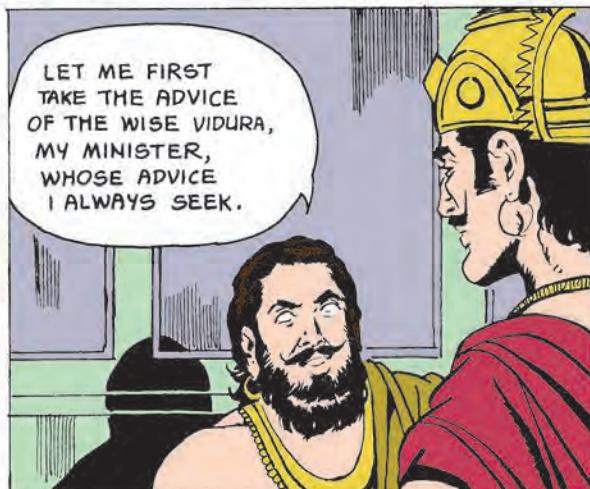
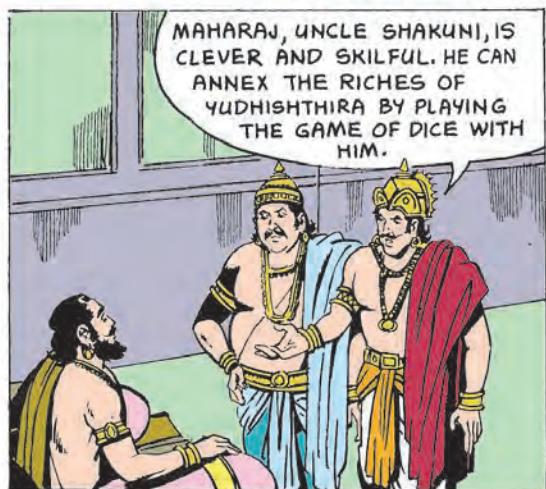
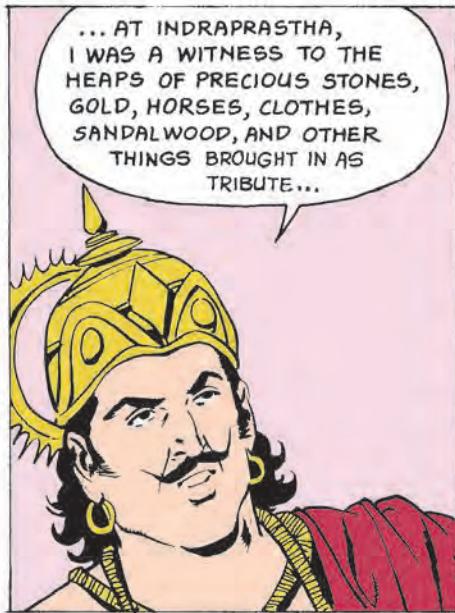
THEN SHAKUNI SAID —

THE PANDAVAS, THEIR ALLIES,
KRISHNA AND DRUPADA,
AND THEIR SONS CANNOT
BE VANQUISHED EVEN BY
THE CELESTIALS.

BUT O PRINCE, I KNOW
A STRATAGEM TO
OBTAIN THE IMMENSE
RICHES POSSESSED BY
YUDHISHTHIRA.

O UNCLE, TELL ME
THAT STRATAGEM.
I WANT TO SUBDUE
YUDHISHTHIRA WITH-
OUT ENDANGERING
MY KIN.

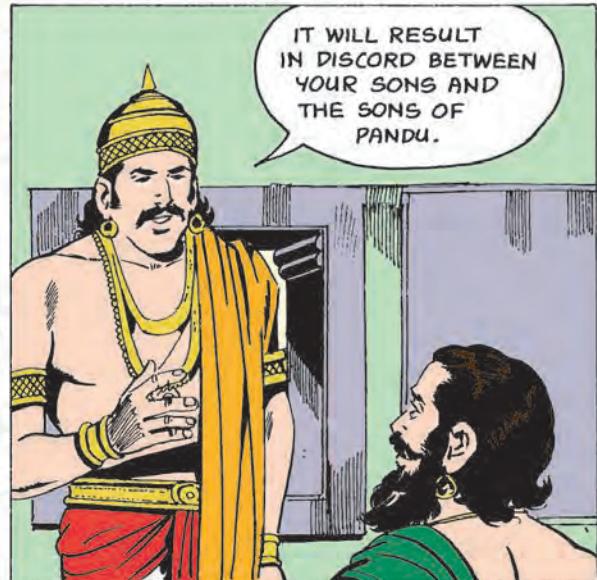




THAT GREAT SOUL CAME TO DHRITARASHTRA, BOWED TO HIM AND SAID —

O LORD,
I DO NOT APPROVE
OF THIS RESOLVE
OF YOURS.

IT WILL RESULT
IN DISCORD BETWEEN
YOUR SONS AND
THE SONS OF
PANDU.



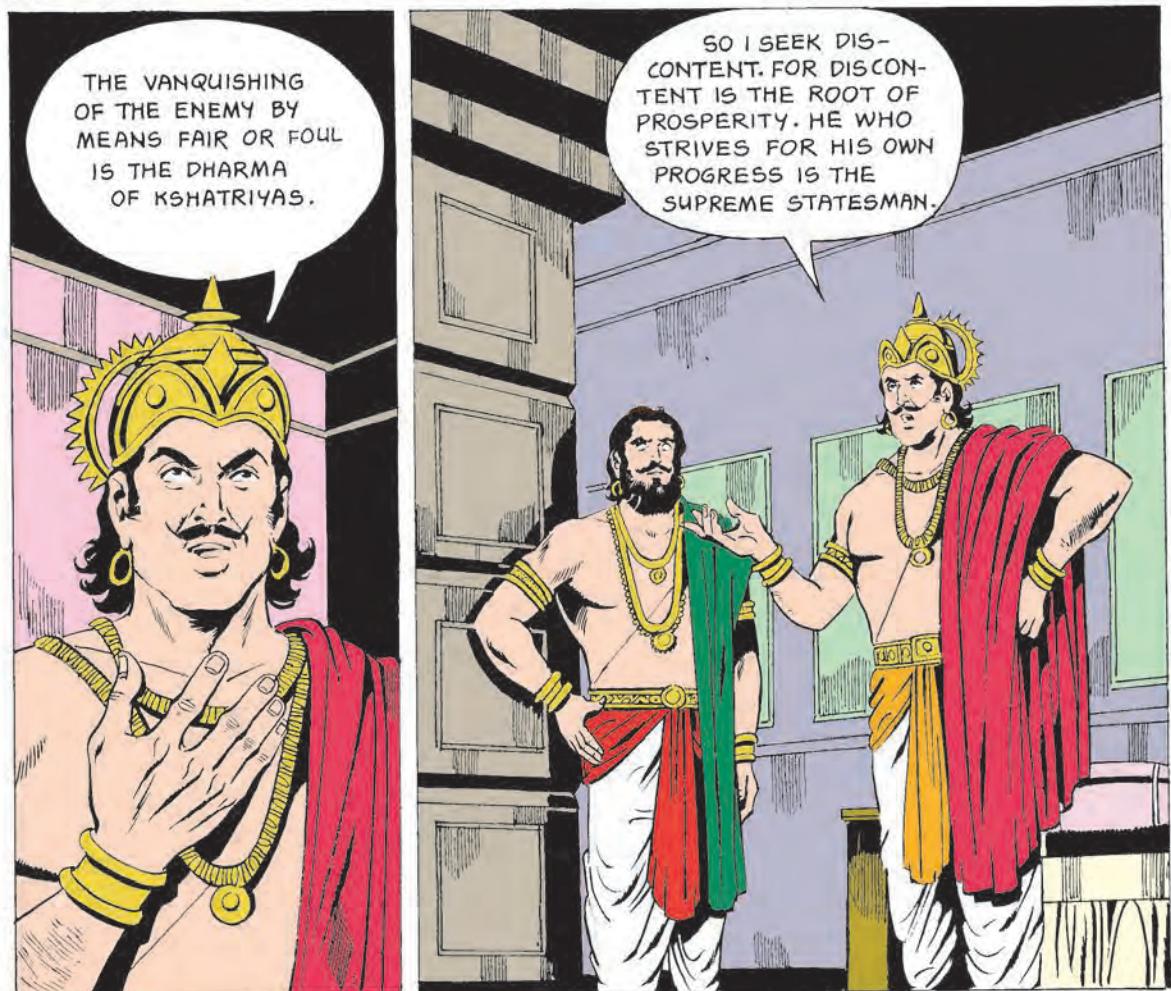
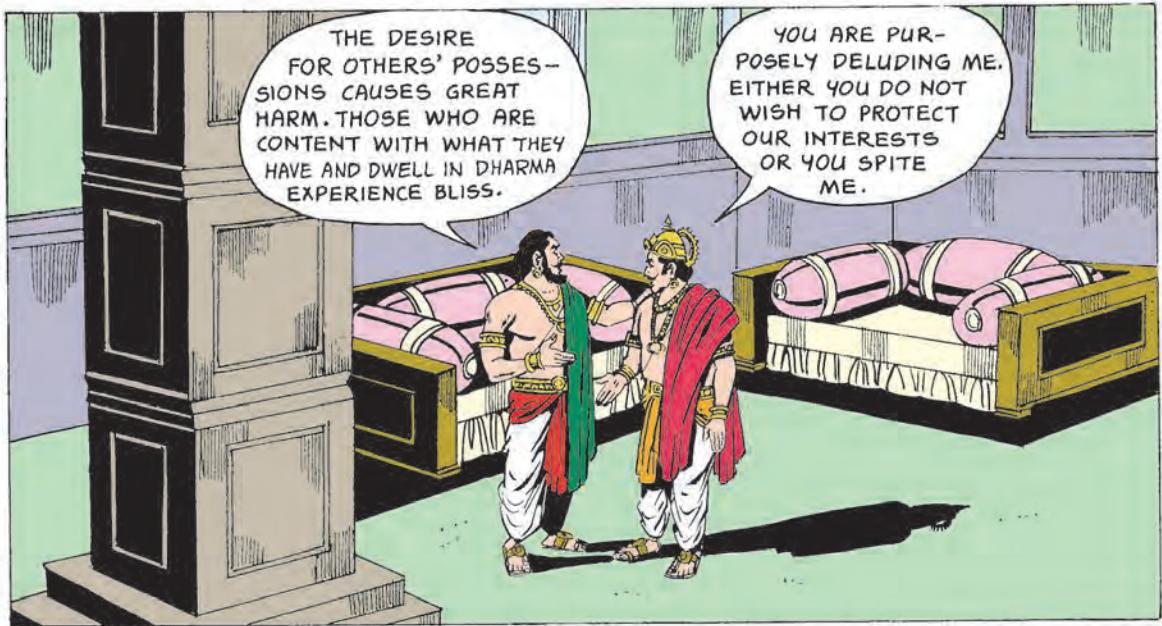
"AFTER LISTENING TO VIDURA, DHRITARASHTRA SPOKE TO DURYODHANA WHEN THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE WITH THEM.

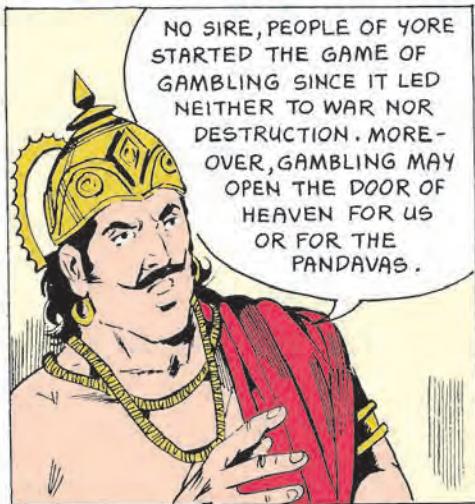
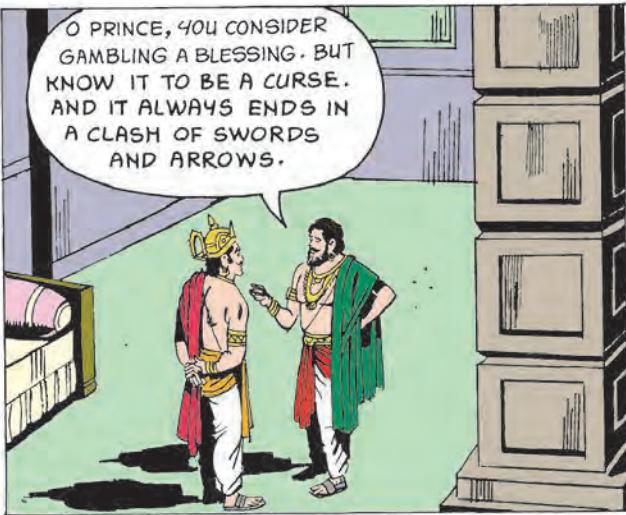
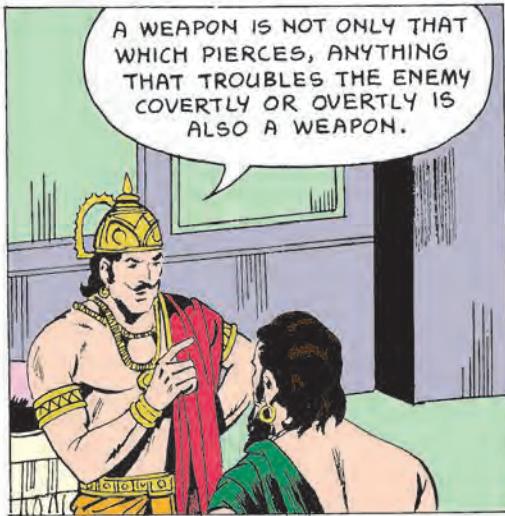
O SON OF
GANDHARI, DO NOT
PLAY DICE. VIDURA
DOES NOT APPROVE
OF IT. AND THE GREAT
AND WISE VIDURA
NEVER WISHES
ILL OF US.



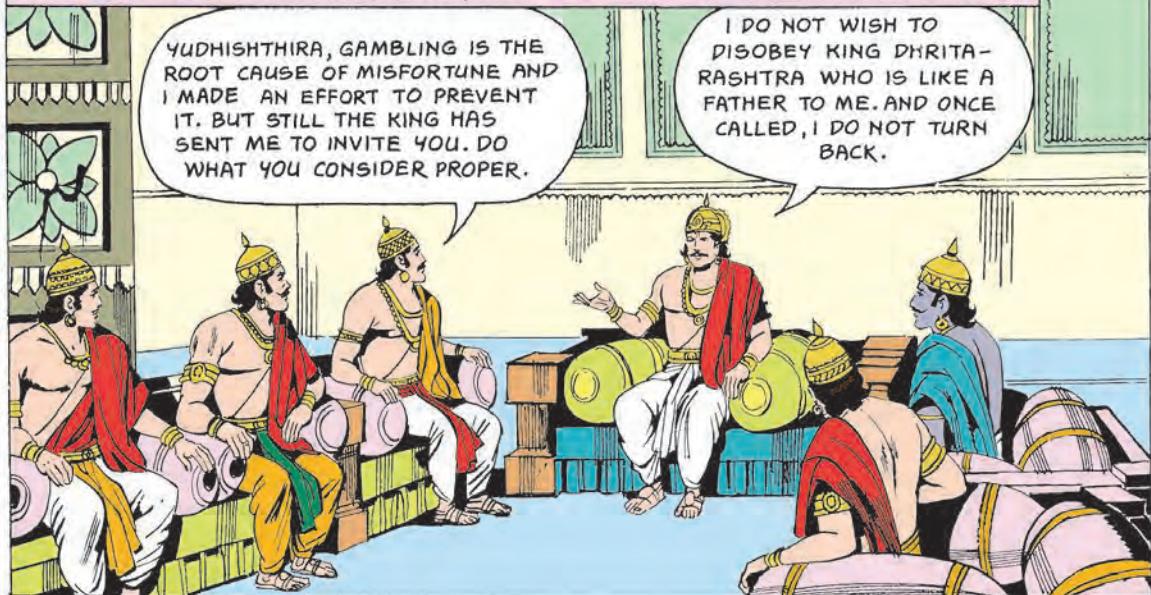
O SON,
GAMBLING
CAUSES DISUNION.
AND DISUNION
DESTROYS
EMPIRES.







THUS INSTRUCTED BY DHRITARASHTRA, VIDURA WENT TO THE PANDAVAS AND SAID—

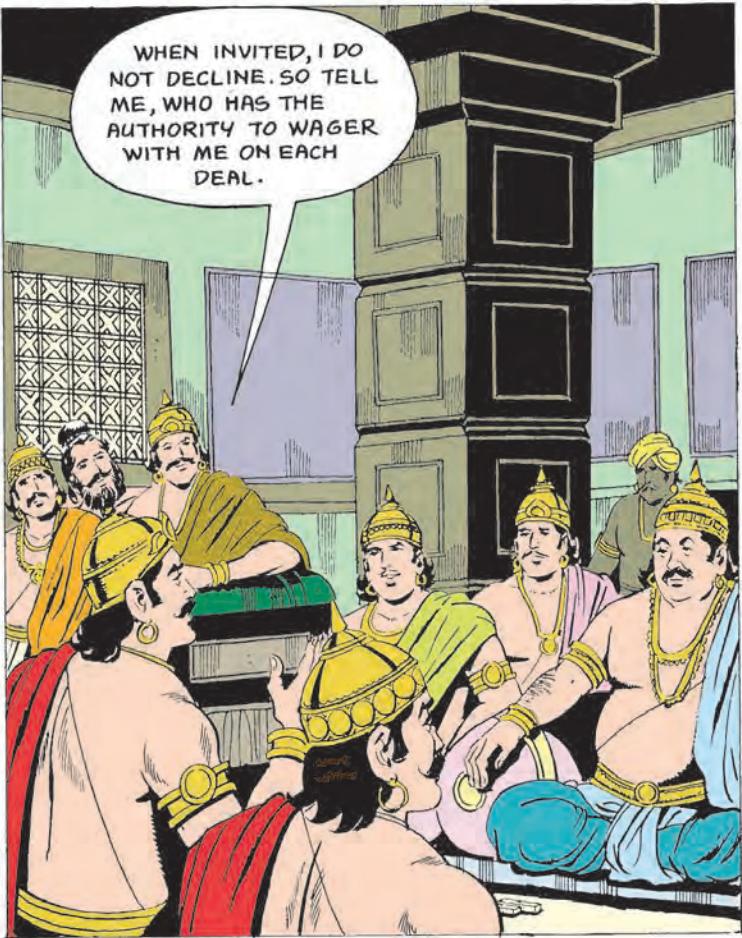
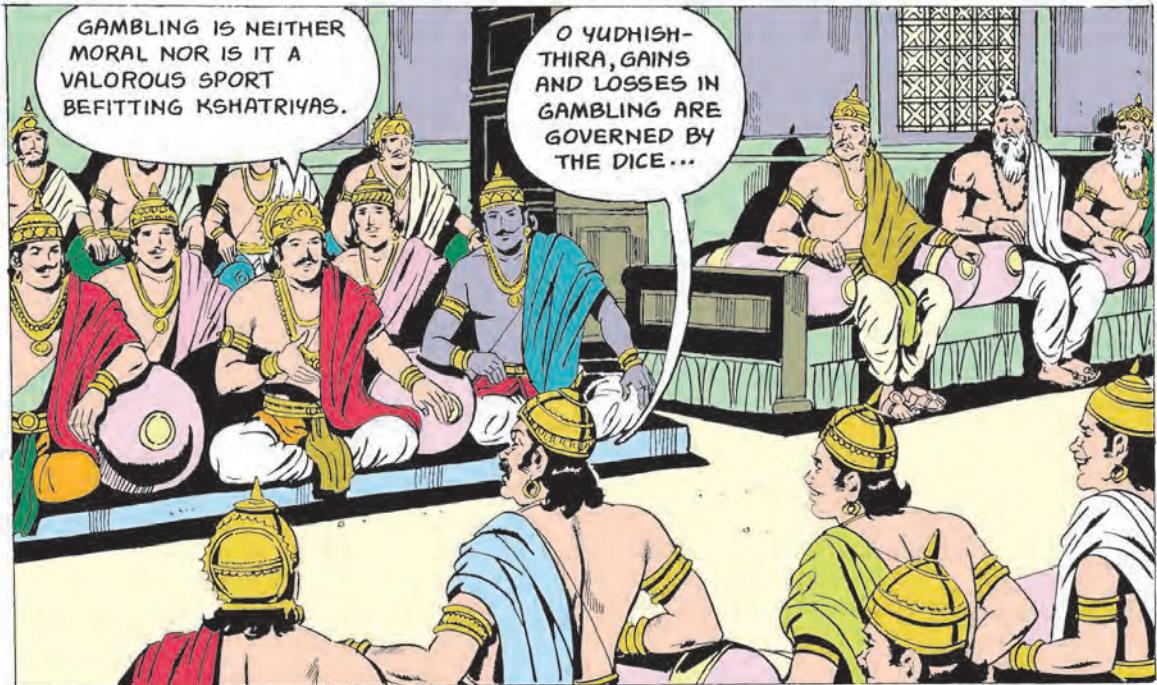


"ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE PANDAVAS, WITH DRAUPADI AND OTHER COMPANIONS, REACHED HASTINAPURA.



"NEXT MORNING AFTER PERFORMING THEIR DAILY RELIGIOUS RITES THE PANDAVAS WENT TO THE HALL OF GAMBLING, WHERE SHAKUNI ADDRESSED YUDHISHTHIRA —



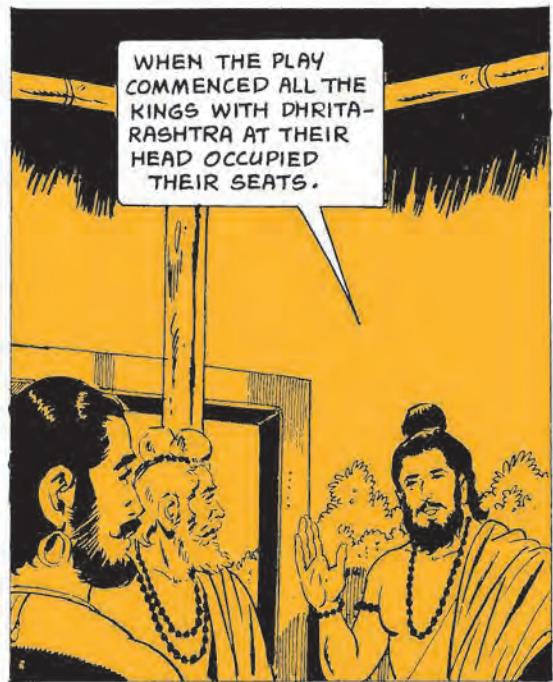


THEN DURYODHANA SAID —

I SHALL PROVIDE THE STAKES AND UNCLE SHAKUNI WILL PLAY ON MY BEHALF.

IT IS IMPROPER THAT ONE SHOULD PLAY FOR ANOTHER. HOWEVER, LET THE PLAY COMMENCE IN THE MANNER YOU DESIRE.

WHEN THE PLAY COMMENCED ALL THE KINGS WITH DHRITARASHTRA AT THEIR HEAD OCCUPIED THEIR SEATS.



BHEESHMA, DRONA, KRIPA AND THE GREAT AND WISE VIDURA SAT BEHIND THEM WITH HEAVY HEARTS.



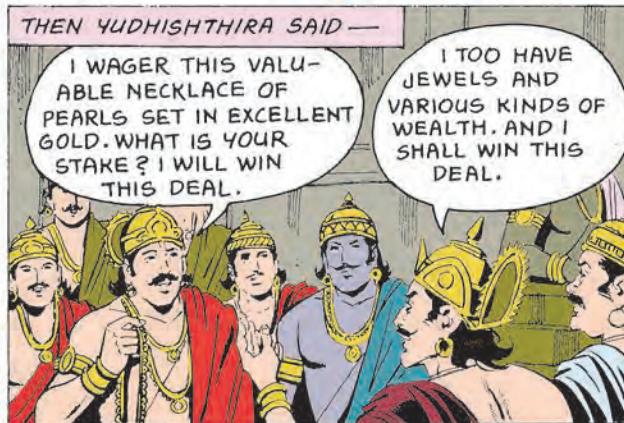
THEN YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

I WAGER THIS VALUABLE NECKLACE OF PEARLS SET IN EXCELLENT GOLD. WHAT IS YOUR STAKE ? I WILL WIN THIS DEAL.

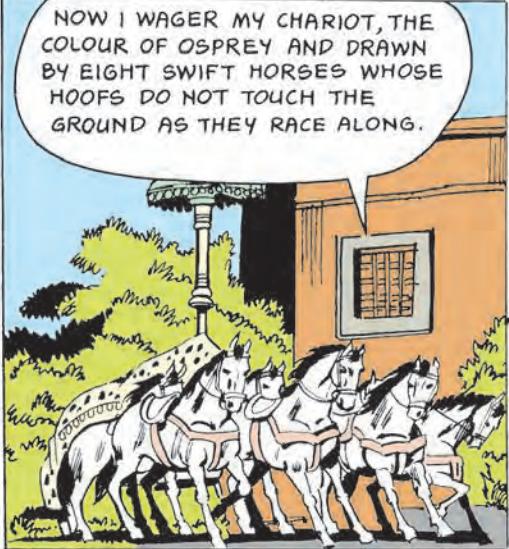
I TOO HAVE JEWELS AND VARIOUS KINDS OF WEALTH. AND I SHALL WIN THIS DEAL.

THE NEXT MOMENT, SHAKUNI TOSSSED THE DICE AND SAID —

LO, I HAVE WON!



NOW I WAGER MY CHARIOT, THE COLOUR OF OSPREY AND DRAWN BY EIGHT SWIFT HORSES WHOSE HOOFs DO NOT TOUCH THE GROUND AS THEY RACE ALONG.

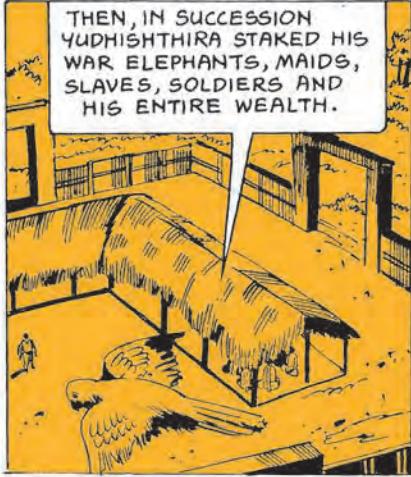


SHAKUNI, USING FOUL MEANS, TOSSED THE DICE AND SAID:

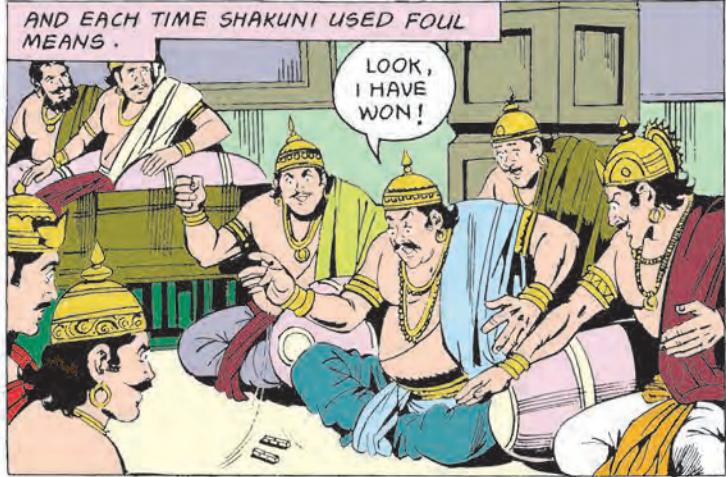
LOOK,
I HAVE
WON!



THEN, IN SUCCESSION YUDHISHTHIRA STAKED HIS WAR ELEPHANTS, MAIDS, SLAVES, SOLDIERS AND HIS ENTIRE WEALTH.

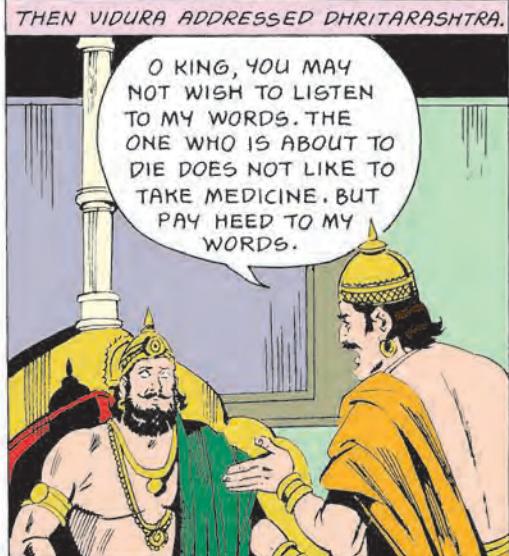


AND EACH TIME SHAKUNI USED FOUL MEANS.

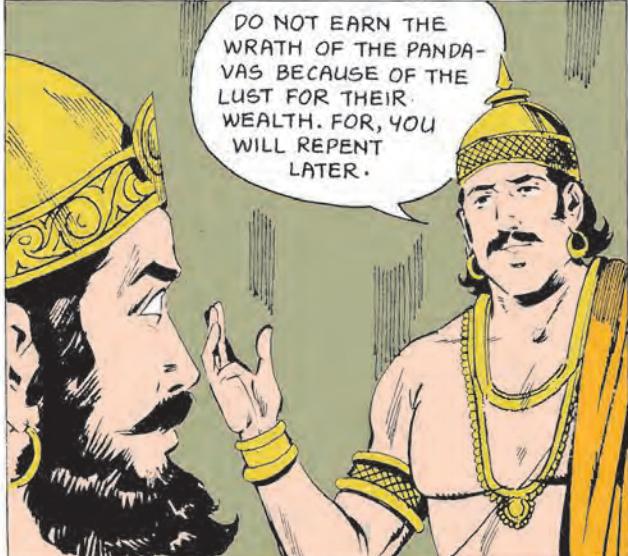


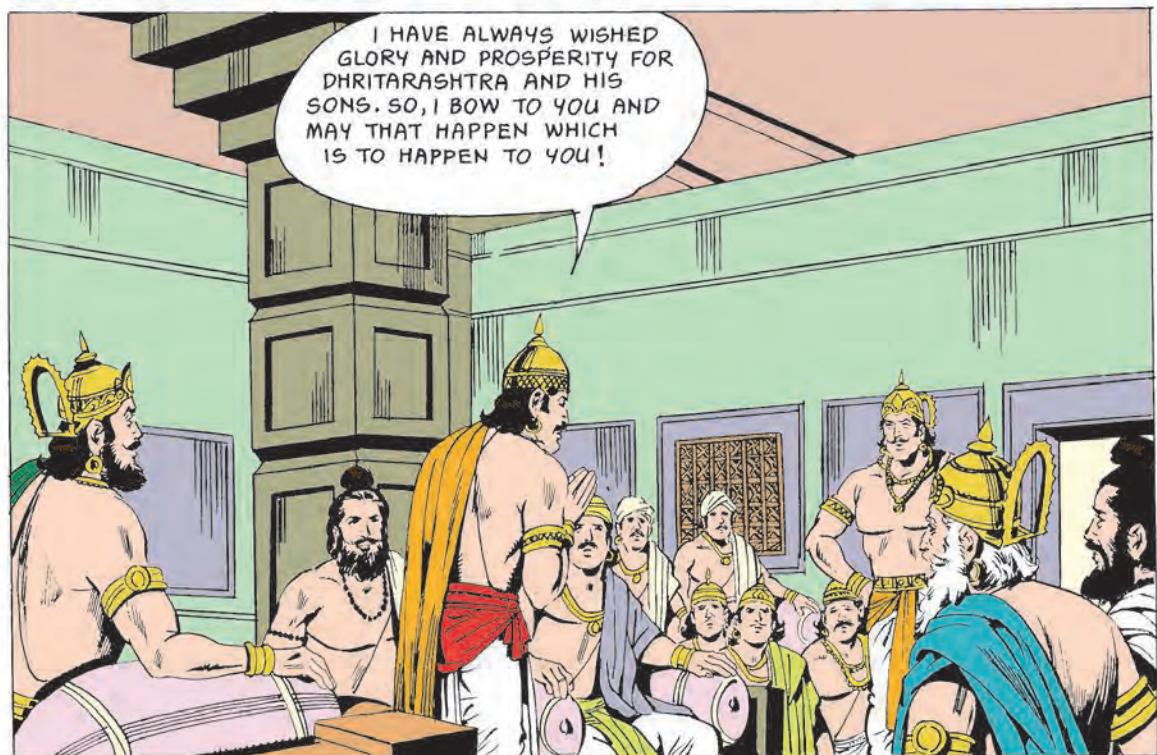
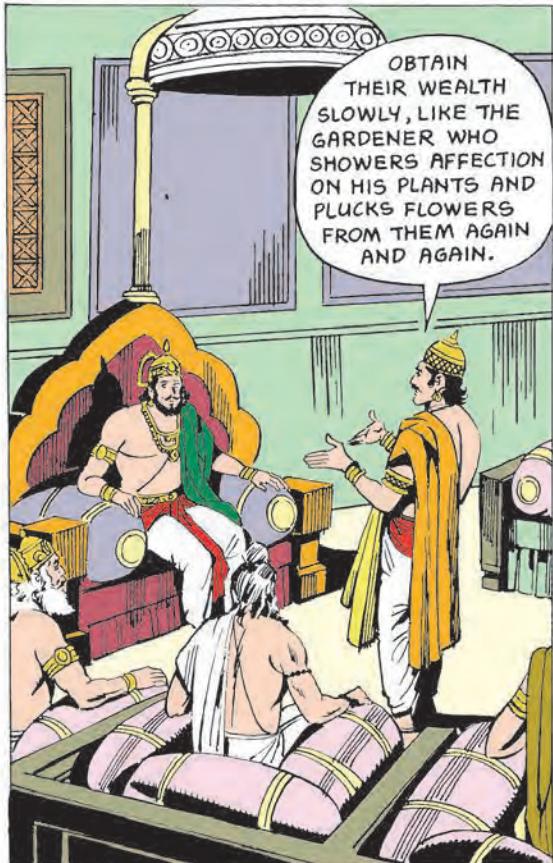
THEN VIDURA ADDRESSED DHRITARASHTRA.

O KING, YOU MAY NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO MY WORDS. THE ONE WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE DOES NOT LIKE TO TAKE MEDICINE. BUT PAY HEED TO MY WORDS.



DO NOT EARN THE WRATH OF THE PANDAVAS BECAUSE OF THE LUST FOR THEIR WEALTH. FOR, YOU WILL REPENT LATER.

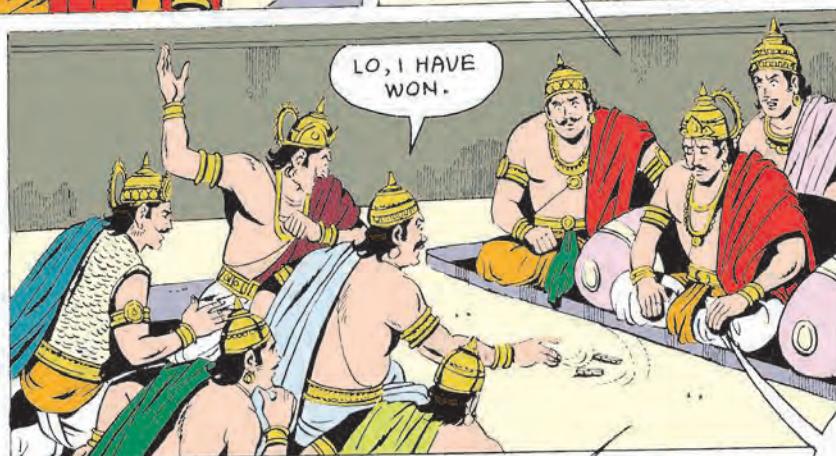




HAVING LOST ALL HIS WEALTH,
YUDHISHTHIRA SAID —

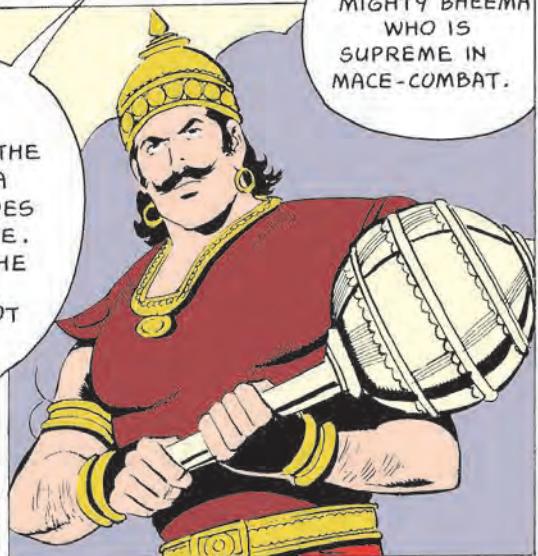
NOW I WAGER
THE YOUTHFUL,
MIGHTY ARMED
NAKULA WHO IS OF
DARK COMPLEXION,
RED EYES AND
LEONINE SHOUL-
DERS.

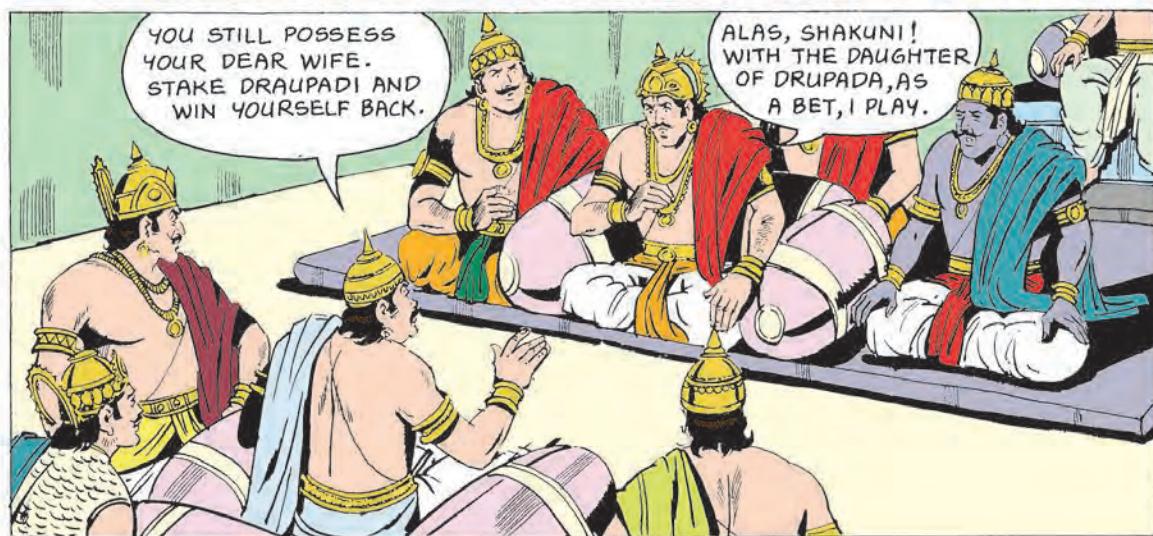
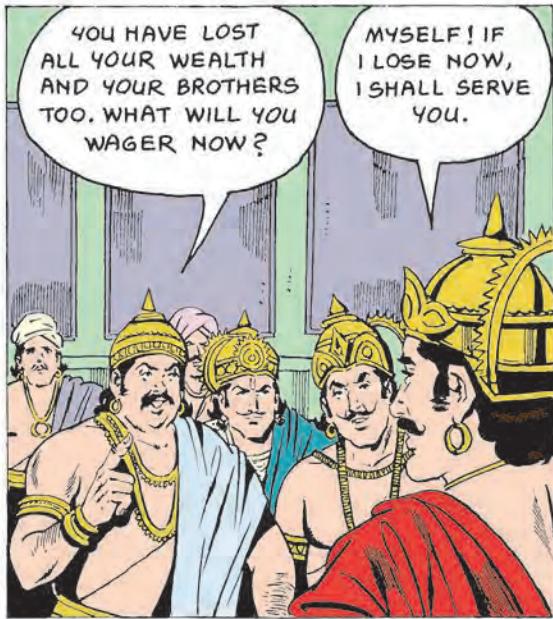
NOW I STAKE
SAHADEVA, WHO
RULES ACCORDING
TO DHARMA AND
IS KNOWN AS
LEARNED ALL
OVER THE WORLD.

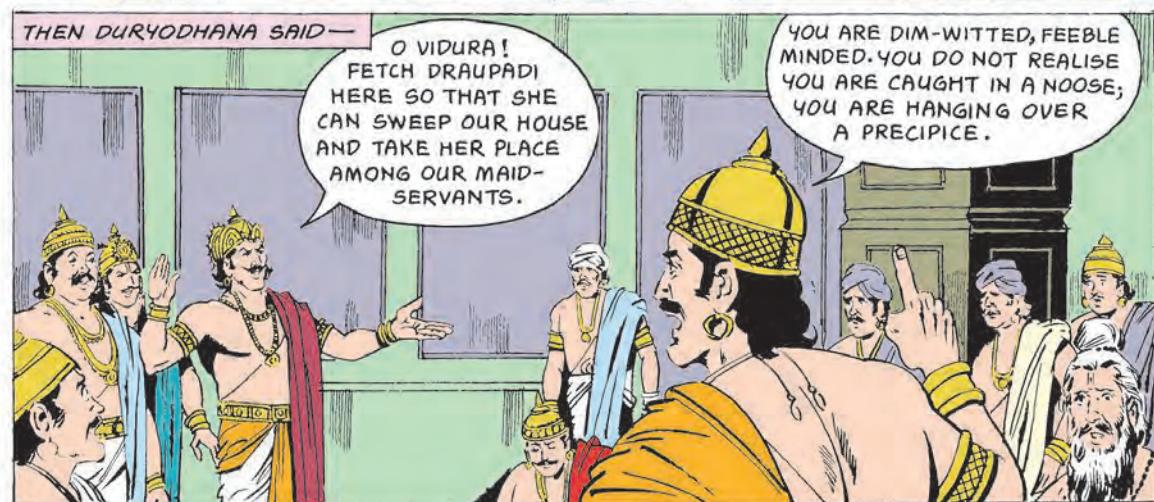
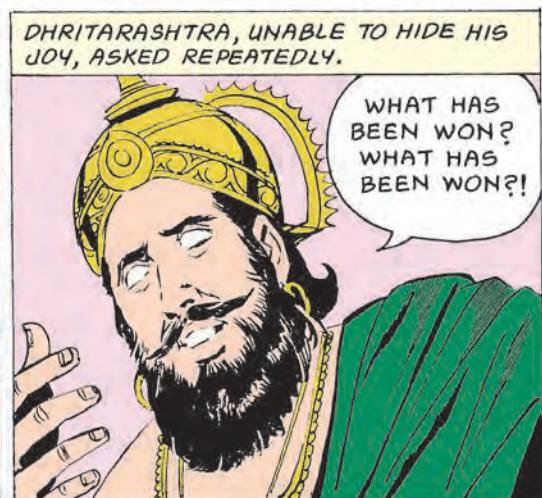
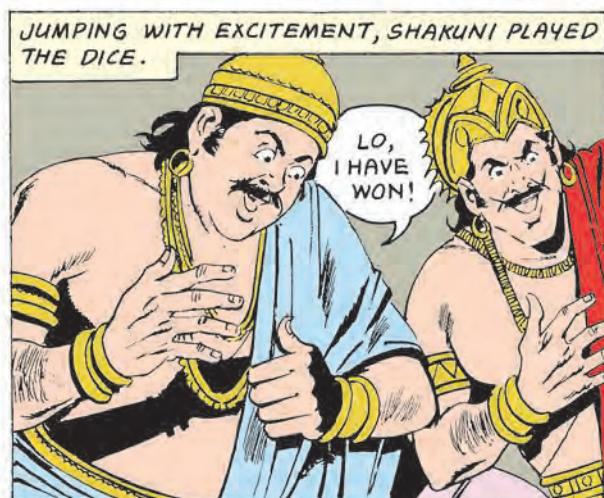
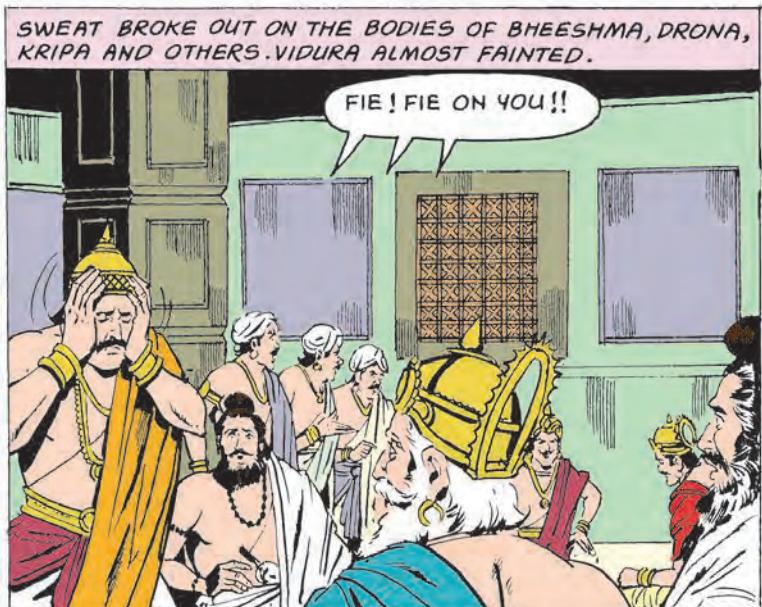


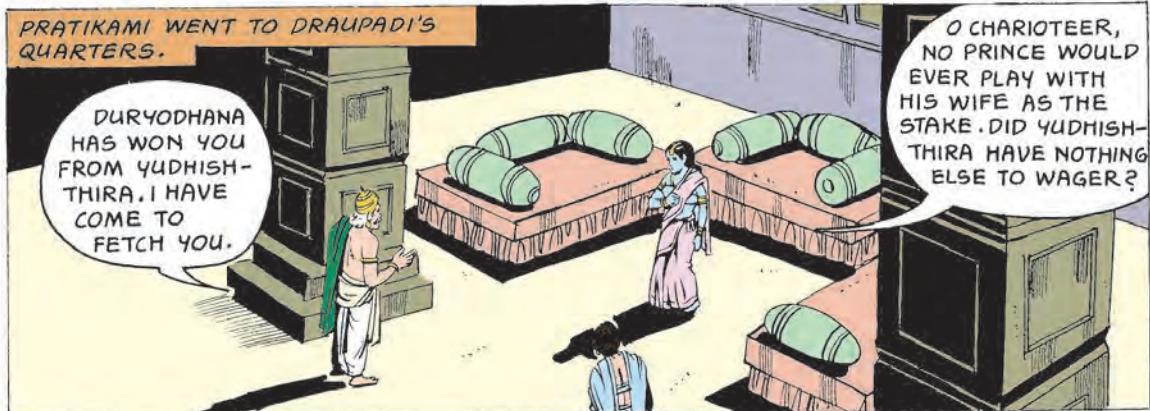
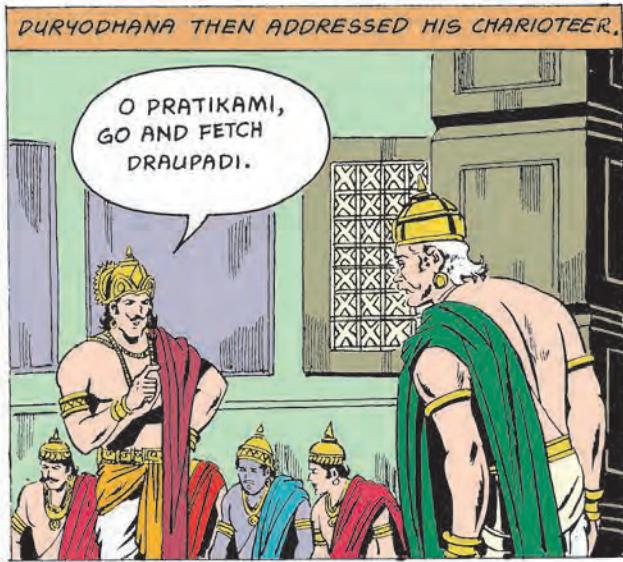
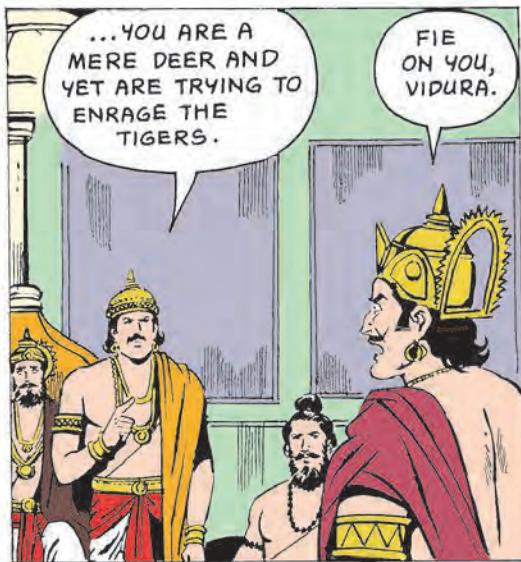
NOW I
WAGER THE
MIGHTY BHEEMA
WHO IS
SUPREME IN
MACE-COMBAT.

THIS ARJUNA IS
LIKE A SHIP AND
CARRIES US ACROSS THE
OCEAN OF WAR. HE IS A
CONQUEROR OF HIS FOES
AND A MIGHTY PRINCE.
WITH THAT ARJUNA, THE
ONE WARRIOR IN THE
WORLD WHO DOES NOT
DESERVE THIS,
I GAMBLE.





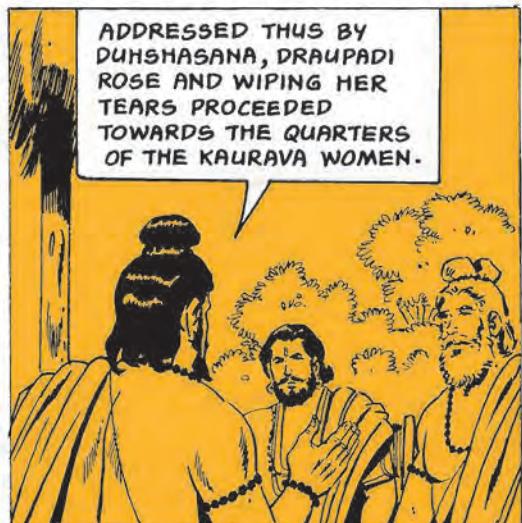
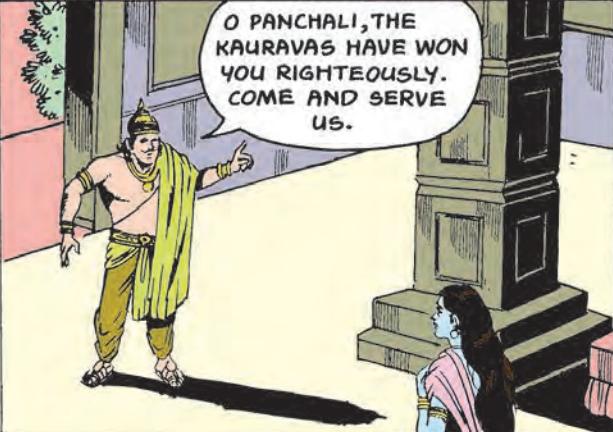




TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND OF HIS BROTHER DUHSHASANA ENTERED THE QUARTERS OF THE PANDAVAS, AND SPOKE TO DRAUPADI THUS—

O PANCHALI, THE KAURAVAS HAVE WON YOU RIGHTEOUSLY. COME AND SERVE US.

ADDRESSED THUS BY DUHSHASANA, DRAUPADI ROSE AND WIPING HER TEARS PROCEEDED TOWARDS THE QUARTERS OF THE KAURAVA WOMEN.



ROARING WITH ANGER, DUHSHASANA RUSHED AND CAUGHT HER BY THE HAIR.



DRAGGED ALONG, HER SLENDER BODY BENT, SHE SAID IN A LOW TONE:

O WICKED WRETCH,
I AM WEARING ONLY
ONE GARMENT. I AM
UNWELL. I AM NOT
FIT TO GO TO THE
ASSEMBLY.

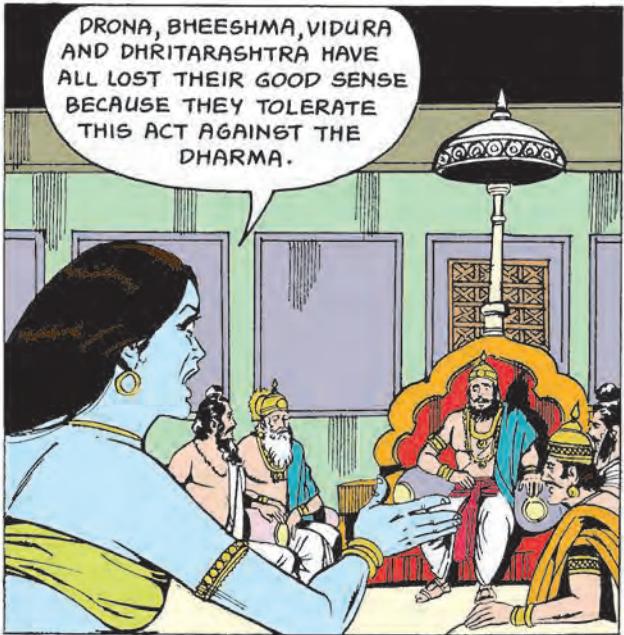




WITH DISHEVELLED HAIR AND HALF-FALLEN GARMENT AND TOSSED ABOUT BY DUHSHASANA, DRAUPADI SAID ANGRILY.



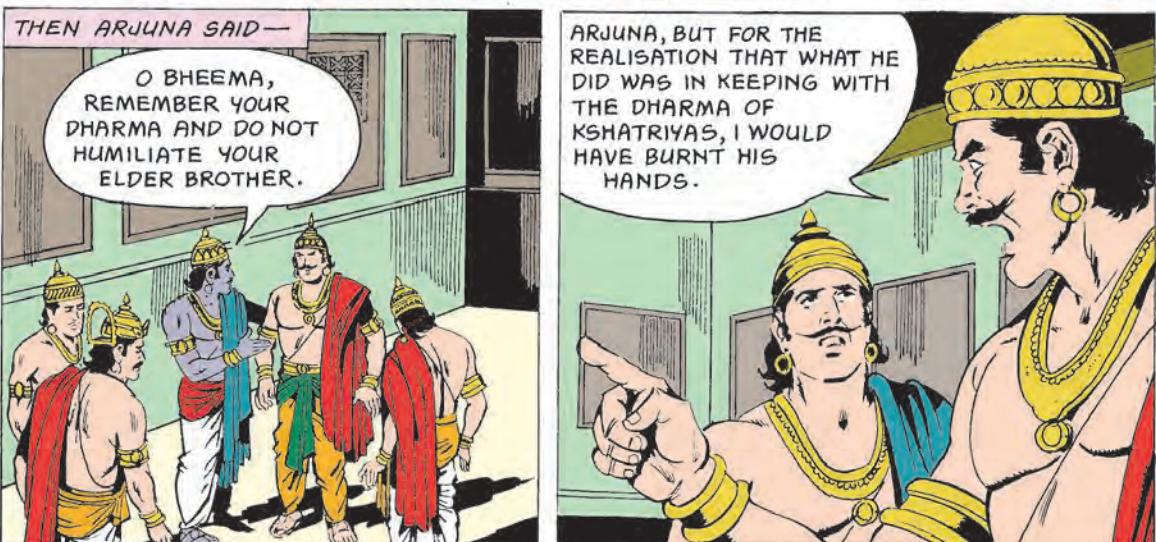
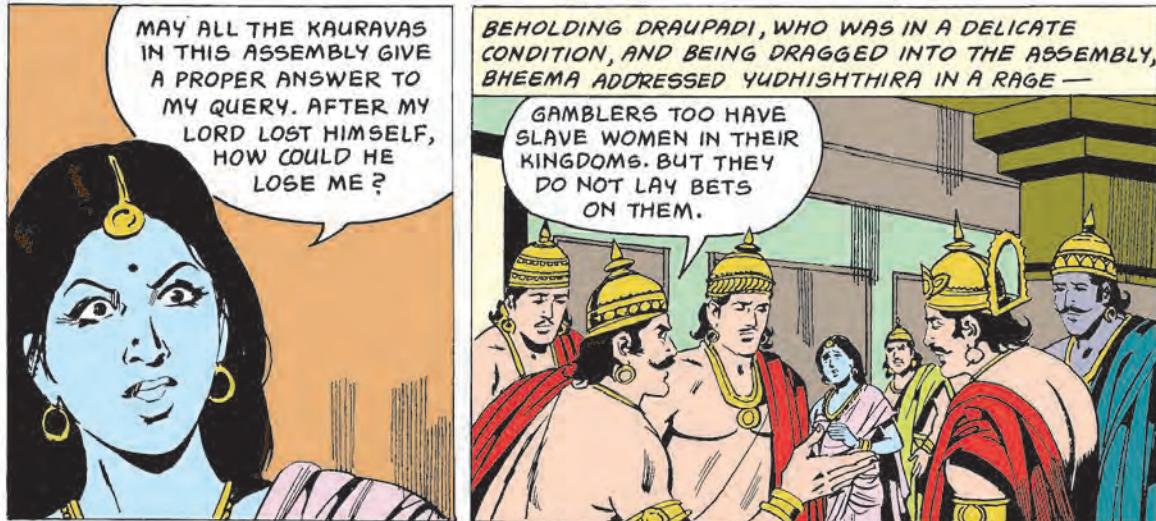
DRONA, BHEESHMA, VIDURA AND DHRITARASHTRA HAVE ALL LOST THEIR GOOD SENSE BECAUSE THEY TOLERATE THIS ACT AGAINST THE DHARMA.



THEN BHEESHMA SAID —

O CHASTE WOMAN, DHARMA IS VERY SUBTLE. IT REQUIRES THAT A WOMAN MUST OBEY THE COMMANDS OF HER HUSBAND AND ALSO THAT ONE SHOULD NOT WAGER WHAT ONE DOES NOT POSSESS. SO, I AM UNABLE TO DECIDE WHAT IS PROPER.





THEN BEHOLDING THE PANDAVAS IN TORMENT AND DRAUPADI HAVING BEEN DRAGGED, VIKARNA, A SON OF DHRITARASHTRA SAID —

O KINGS, GIVE A PRUDENT REPLY TO DRAUPADI'S QUESTION. OR ELSE WE WILL CERTAINLY BE BANISHED TO HELL.

VIKARNA URGED THE KINGS REPEATEDLY. BUT WHEN NONE OF THEM UTTERED A WORD, HE SAID —

YOU MAY OR MAY NOT ANSWER THE QUESTION. BUT I WILL STATE WHAT, IN MY OPINION, IS JUST.

THE BLAMELESS DRAUPADI IS THE WIFE OF ALL THE PANDAVAS. YUDHISHTHIRA LOST HIMSELF FIRST...

THEN, WITH THE AIM TO WIN DRAUPADI, SHAKUNI COAXED YUDHISHTHIRA TO LAY A BET ON HER...

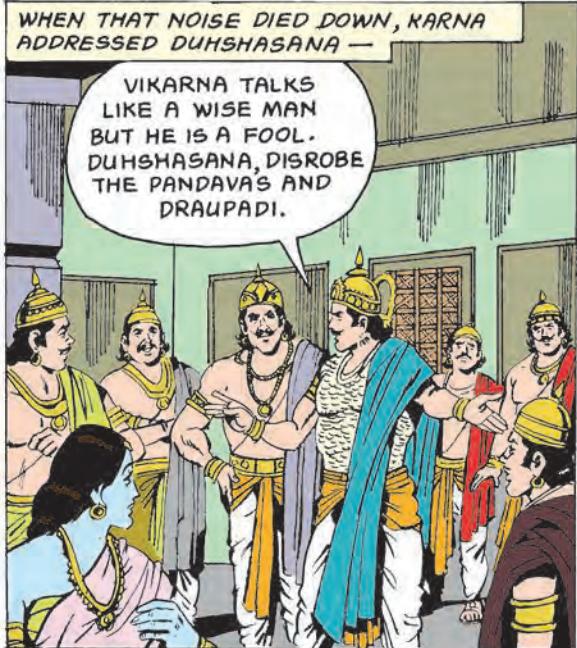
...CONSIDERING ALL THIS, I DO NOT TREAT DRAUPADI TO HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE GAMBLE.

ON HEARING THIS, THERE WAS TUMULT AMONG THOSE ASSEMBLED THERE, ALL OF THEM PRAISING VIKARNA.

WELL SAID.

WHEN THAT NOISE DIED DOWN, KARNA ADDRESSED DUHSHASANA —

VIKARNA TALKS LIKE A WISE MAN BUT HE IS A FOOL. DUHSHASANA, DISROBE THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI.

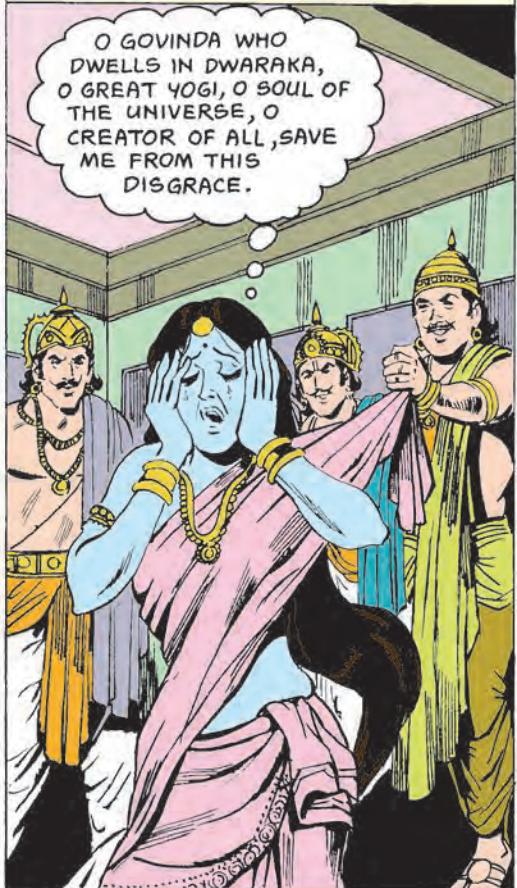


HEARING THESE WORDS, THE PANDAVAS THEMSELVES REMOVED THEIR CLOTHES. AND DUHSHASANA STARTED TO DISROBE DRAUPADI.



WHEN HER GARMENT WAS BEING PULLED, DRAUPADI MEDITATED ON KRISHNA —

O GOVINDA WHO DWELLS IN DWARAKA, O GREAT YOGI, O SOUL OF THE UNIVERSE, O CREATOR OF ALL, SAVE ME FROM THIS DISGRACE.



AS DUHSHASANA PULLED OFF DRAUPADI'S GARMENT, ANOTHER GARMENT APPEARED IN ITS PLACE, MANY TIMES OVER.

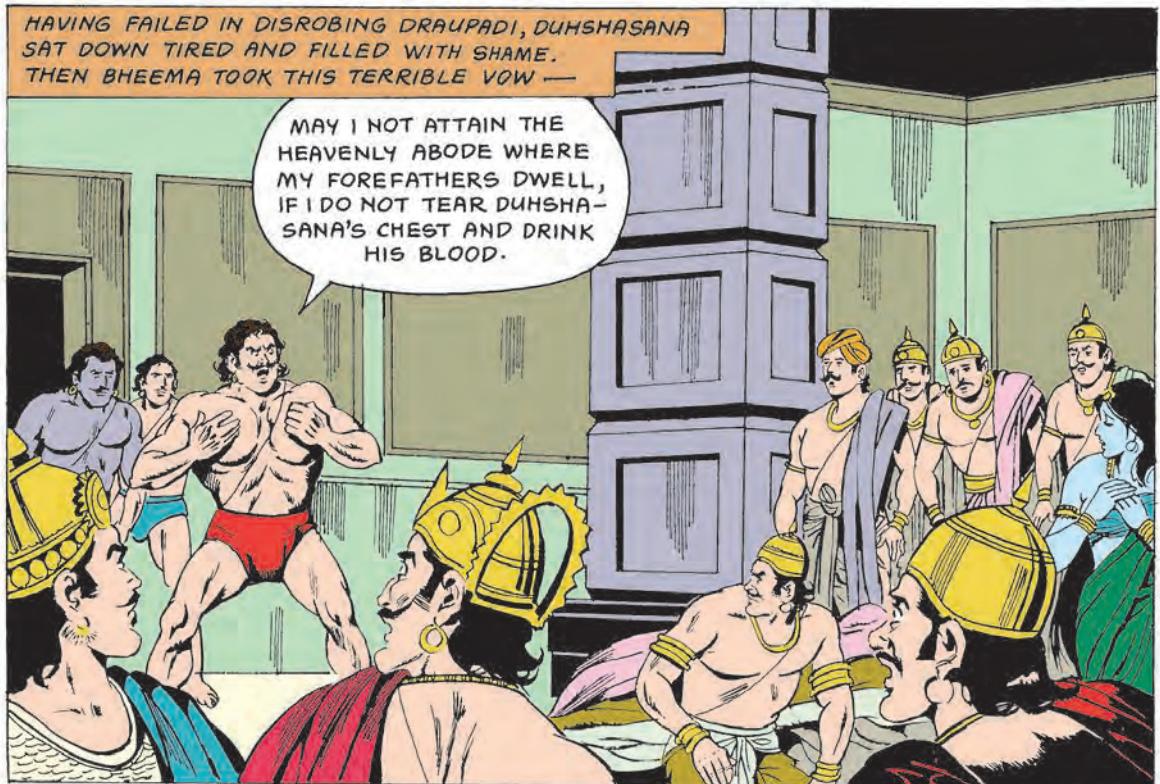


SOON, THE GARMENTS OF VARIOUS HUES REMOVED FROM THE BODY OF DRAUPADI FORMED A LARGE HEAP ON THE FLOOR.



HAVING FAILED IN DISROBING DRAUPADI, DUHSHASANA SAT DOWN TIRED AND FILLED WITH SHAME. THEN BHEEMA TOOK THIS TERRIBLE VOW —

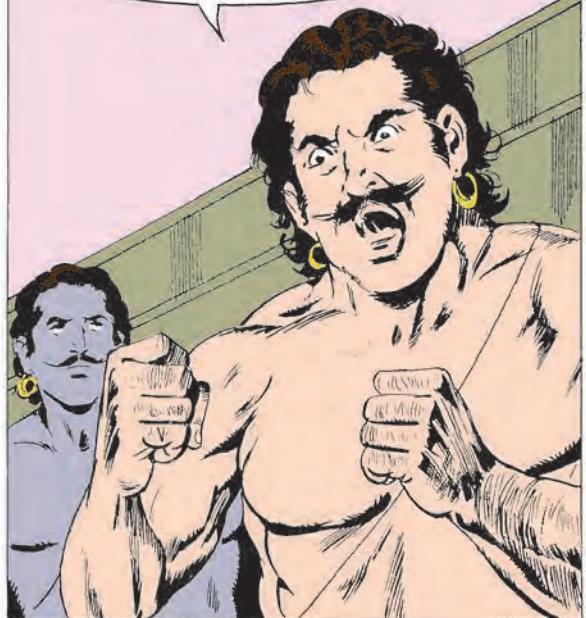
MAY I NOT ATTAIN THE HEAVENLY ABODE WHERE MY FOREFATHERS DWELL, IF I DO NOT TEAR DUHSHASANA'S CHEST AND DRINK HIS BLOOD.

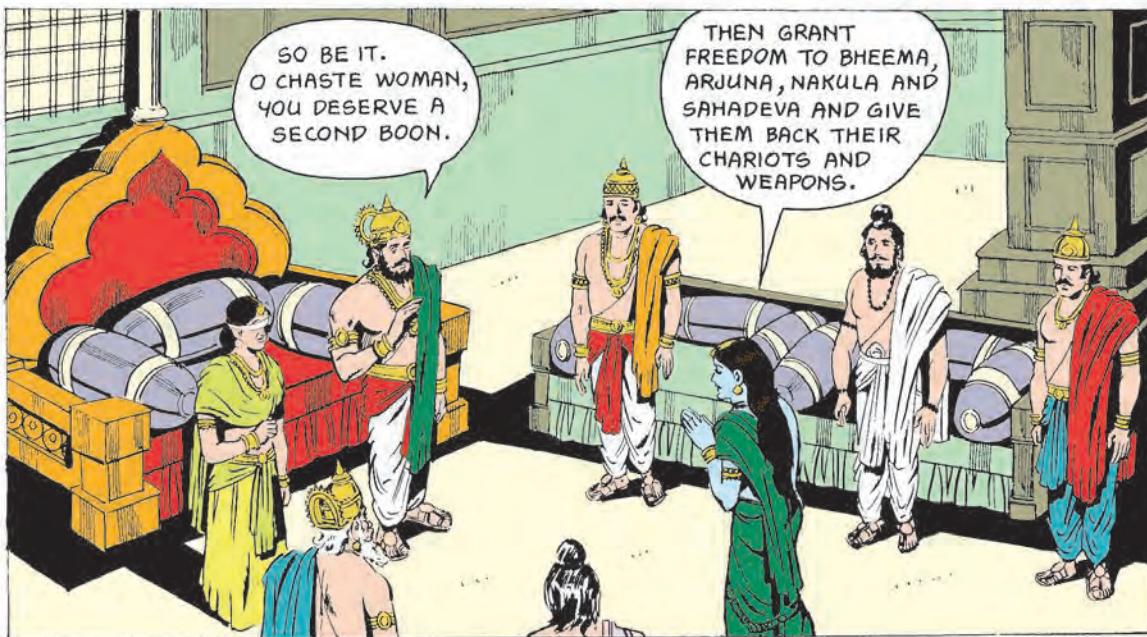
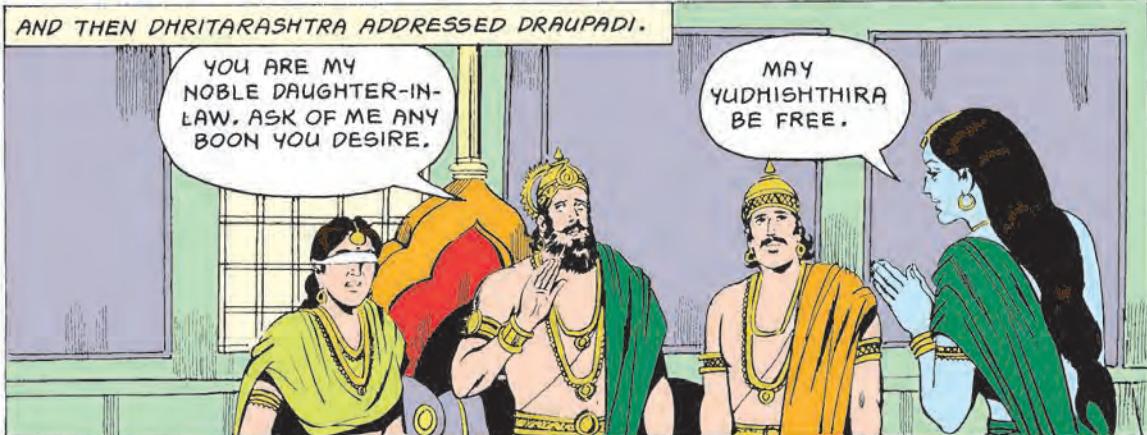
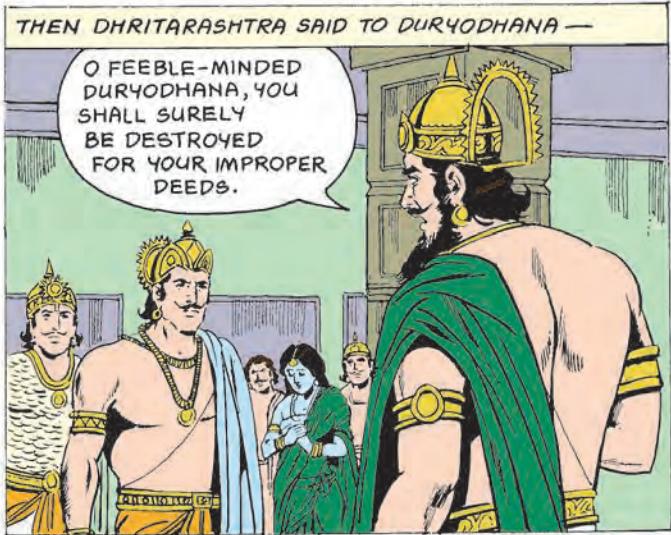
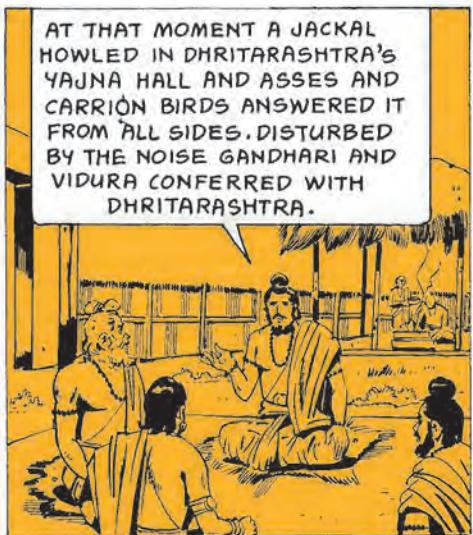


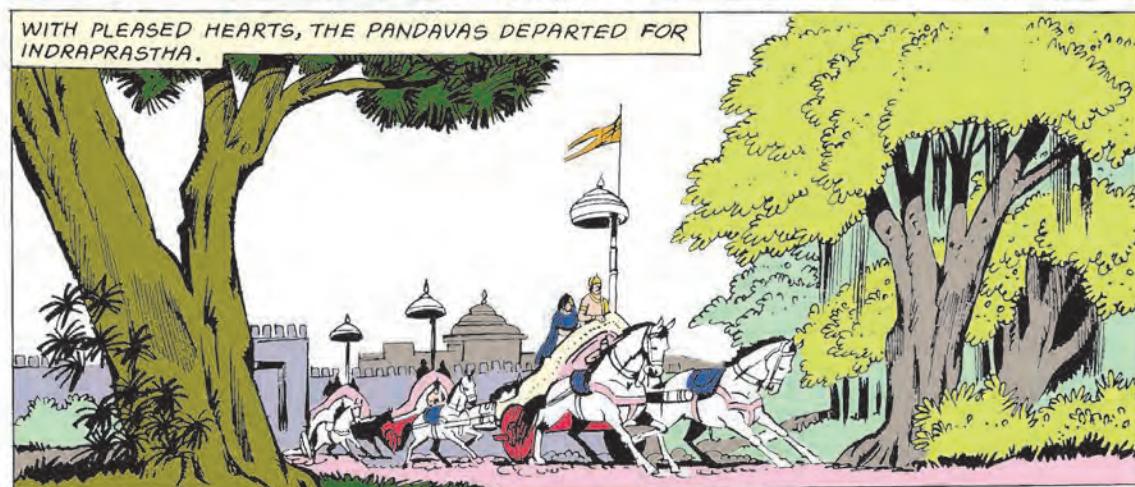
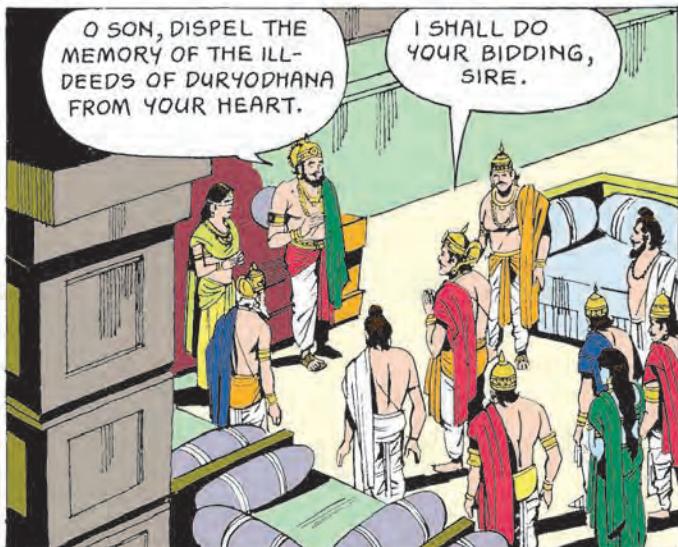
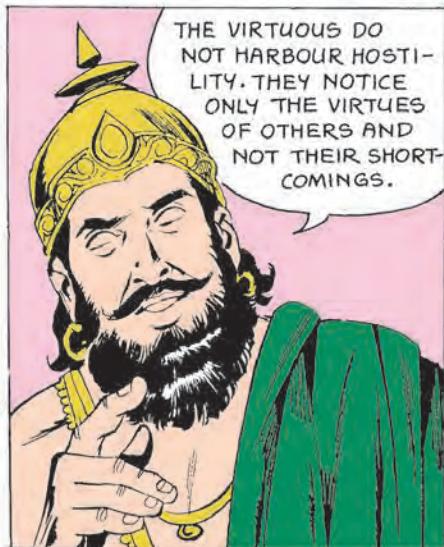
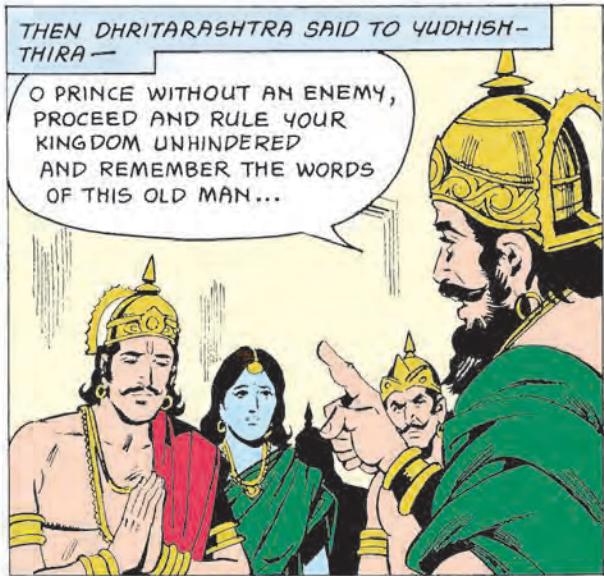
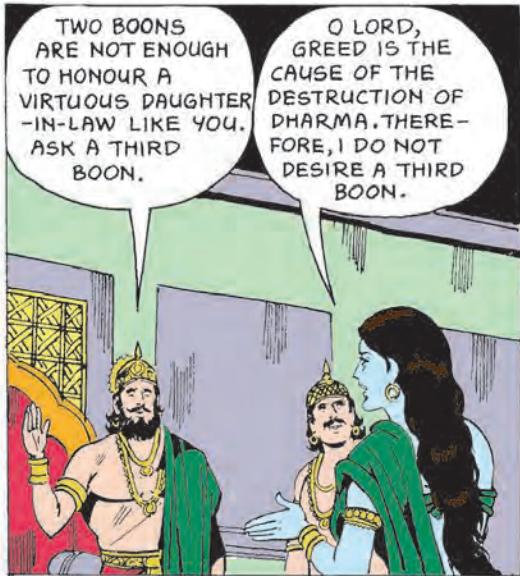
IMPELLED BY DESIRE AND TO SPITE BHEEMA, DURYODHANA GESTURED LEWDLY TO DRAUPADI, AGAIN AND AGAIN ASKING HER TO SIT ON HIS THIGHS.

HIS EYES BLOODSHOT WITH ANGER ON BEHOLDING THIS, BHEEMA TOOK ANOTHER VOW —

IF I DO NOT BREAK YOUR THIGH IN A GREAT WAR, THEN MAY I NOT ATTAIN THE WORLD* OF MY ANCESTORS.



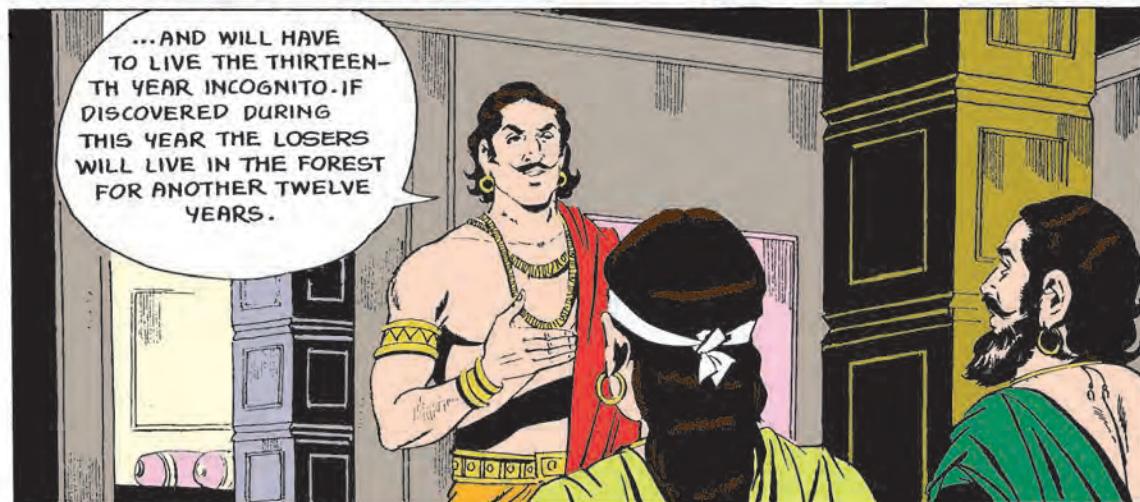
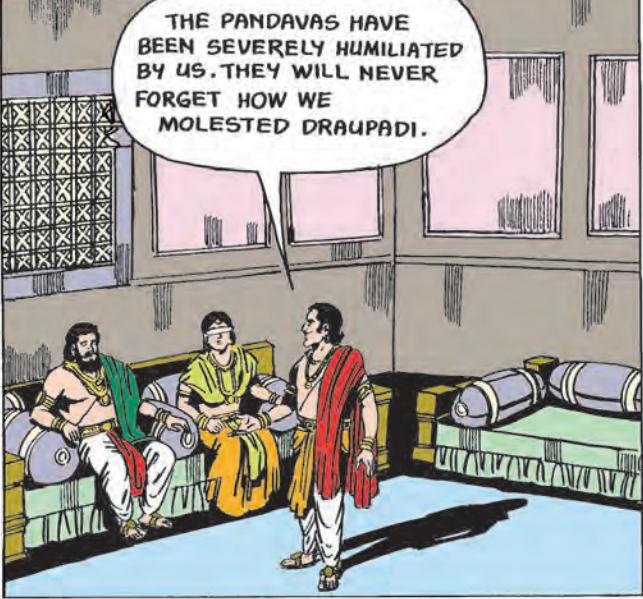


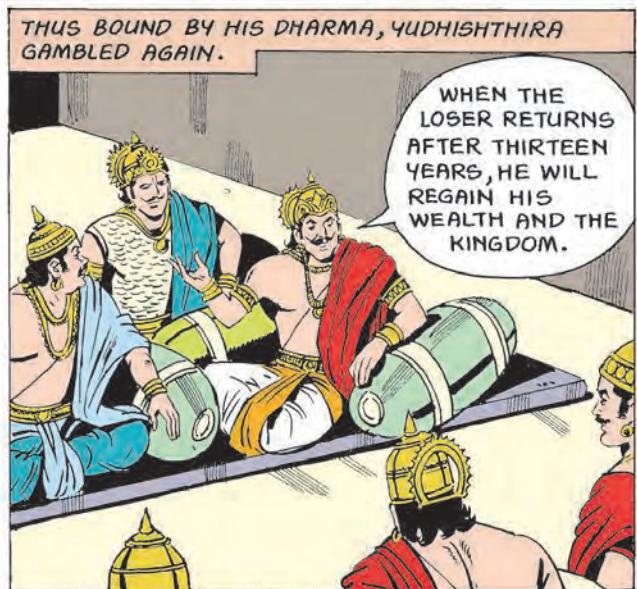
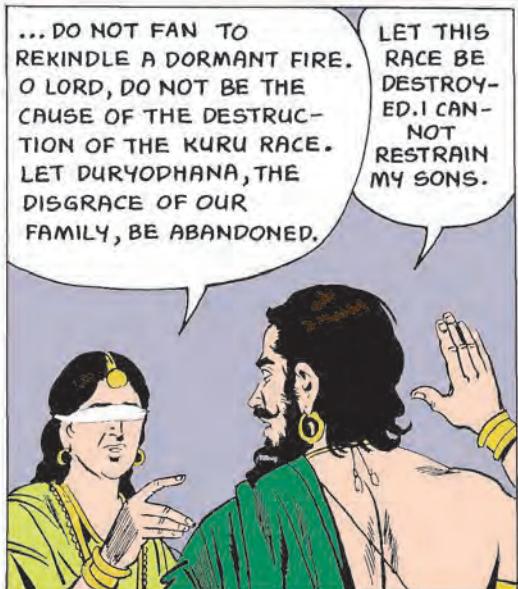
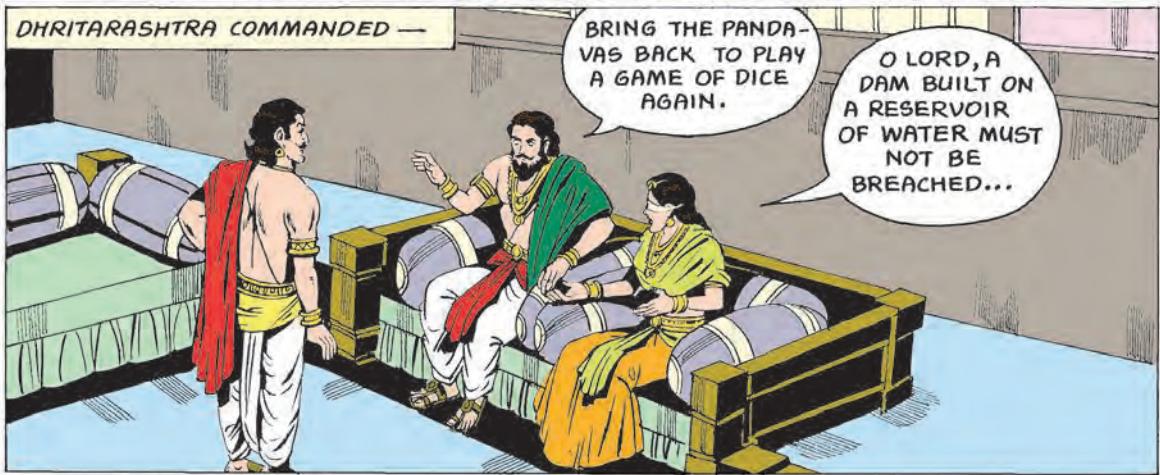
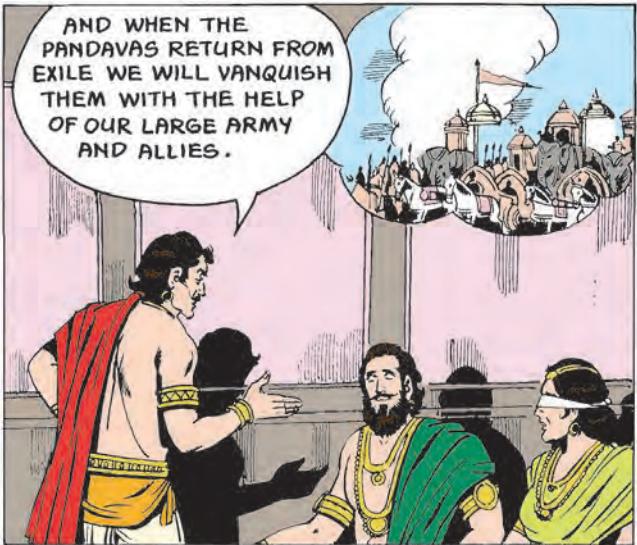


WHEN THE PANDAVAS LEFT, DHUHSASANA, AFFLICTED WITH GRIEF, WENT TO HIS BROTHER DURYODHANA AND SAID —



THEN DURYODHANA WENT TO DHRITARASHTRA AND SAID —





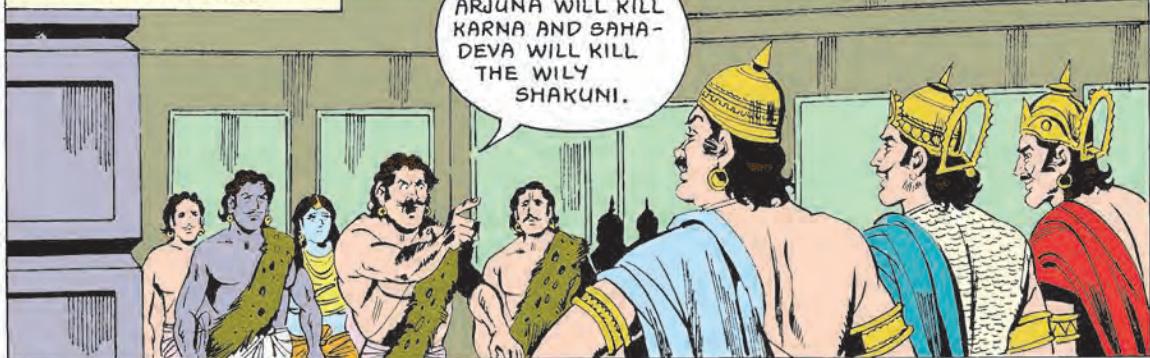
WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA ACCEPTED THE TERMS, SHAKUNI PLAYED THE DICE AND SAID.



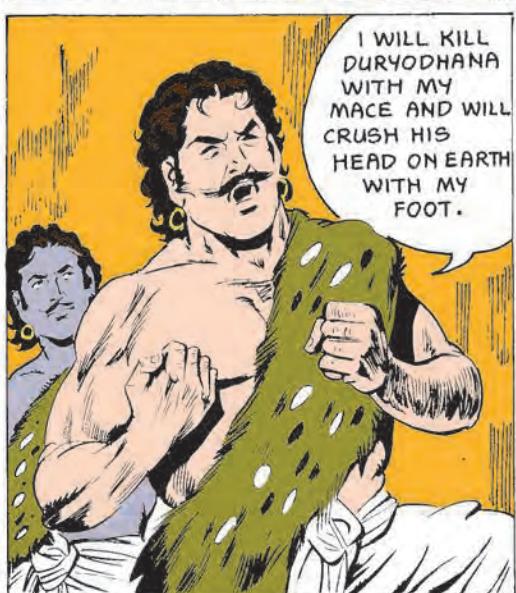
DUHSHASANA DANCED FOR JOY WHEN HE SAW THE VANQUISHED PANDAVAS WEARING DEERSKINS AS UPPER GARMENTS.



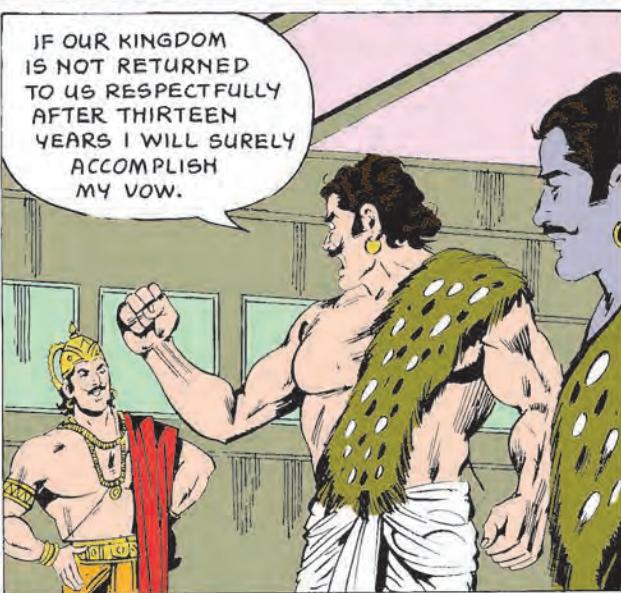
DURYODHANA IMITATED THE LEONINE WALK OF BHEEMA TO MOCK HIM. THEN BHEEMA SAID —



I WILL KILL DURYODHANA WITH MY MACE AND WILL CRUSH HIS HEAD ON EARTH WITH MY FOOT.



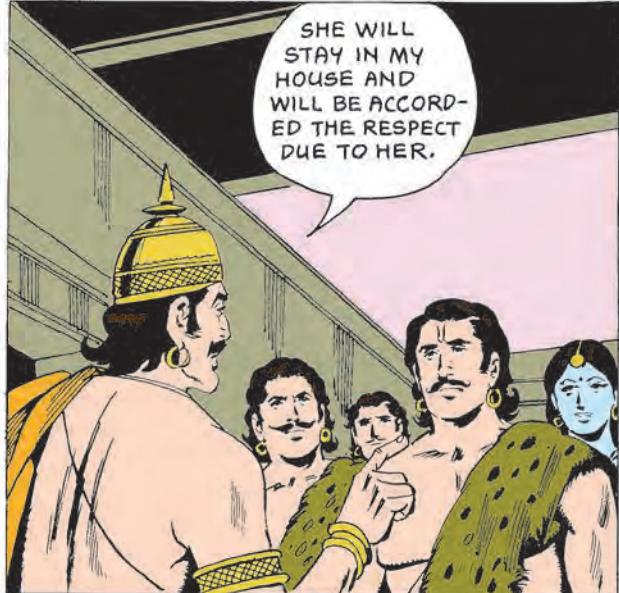
IF OUR KINGDOM IS NOT RETURNED TO US RESPECTFULLY AFTER THIRTEEN YEARS I WILL SURELY ACCOMPLISH MY VOW.



YUDHISHTHIRA SOUGHT LEAVE OF DRONA, Kripa, VIDURA, DHRITARASHTRA AND OTHERS. THEN VIDURA SAID —

O YUDHISHTHIRA,
KUNTI IS WEAK
AND OLD. SHE IS
NOT ABLE TO GO
TO THE FOREST.

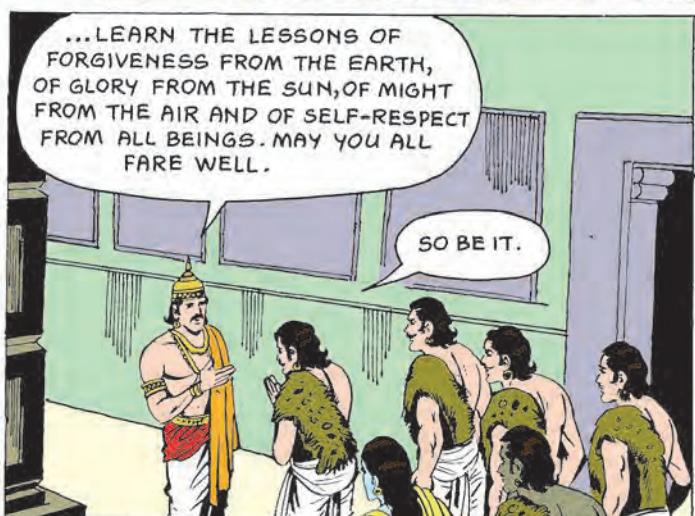
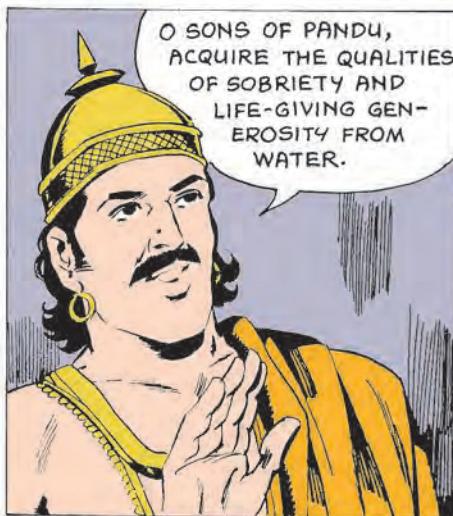
SHE WILL
STAY IN MY
HOUSE AND
WILL BE ACCORD-
ED THE RESPECT
DUE TO HER.



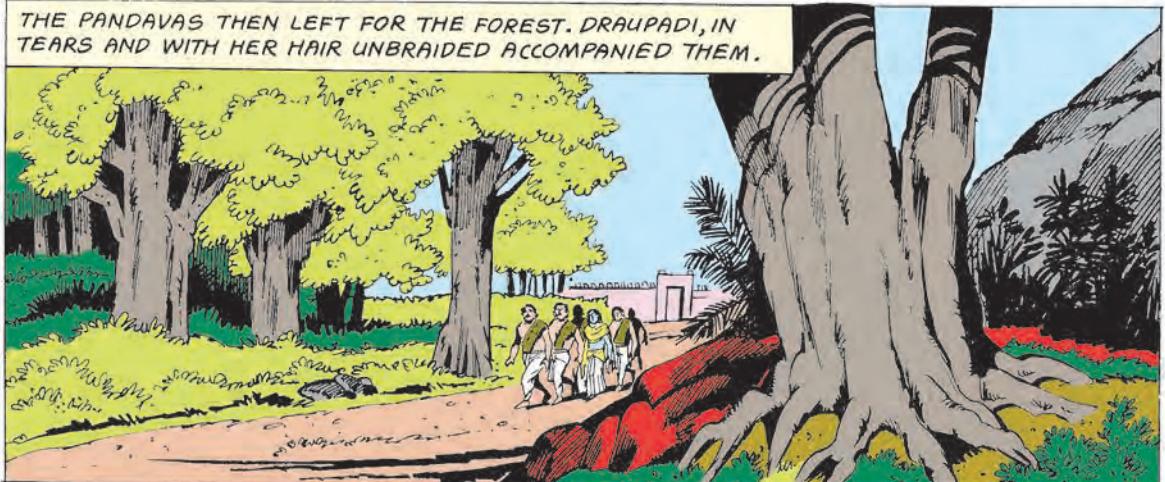
O SONS OF PANDU,
ACQUIRE THE QUALITIES
OF SOBRIETY AND
LIFE-GIVING GEN-
EROUSITY FROM
WATER.

...LEARN THE LESSONS OF
FORGIVENESS FROM THE EARTH,
OF GLORY FROM THE SUN, OF MIGHT
FROM THE AIR AND OF SELF-RESPECT
FROM ALL BEINGS. MAY YOU ALL
FARE WELL.

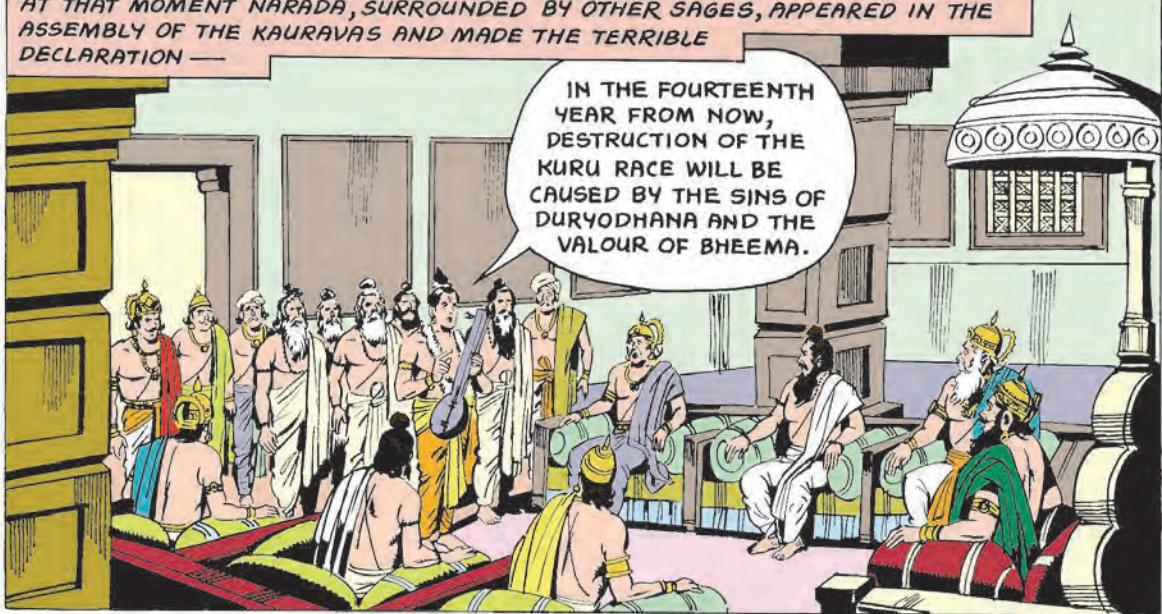
SO BE IT.



THE PANDAVAS THEN LEFT FOR THE FOREST. DRAUPADI, IN TEARS AND WITH HER HAIR UNBRAIDED ACCOMPANIED THEM.



AT THAT MOMENT NARADA, SURROUNDED BY OTHER SAGES, APPEARED IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KAURAVAS AND MADE THE TERRIBLE DECLARATION —

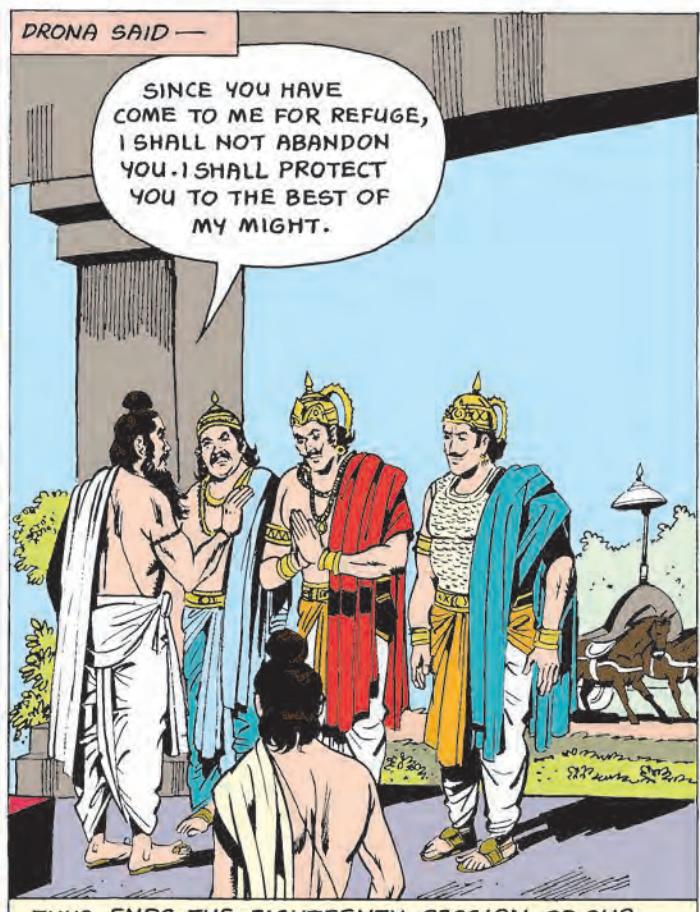


SAYING THIS, NARADA VANISHED. THEN DURYODHANA, KARNA AND SHAKUNI ACKNOWLEDGED DRONA AS THEIR ISLAND OF REFUGE IN THE SEA OF THEIR FEAR AND DEDICATED THEIR KINGDOM TO HIM.



DRONA SAID —

SINCE YOU HAVE COME TO ME FOR REFUGE, I SHALL NOT ABANDON YOU. I SHALL PROTECT YOU TO THE BEST OF MY MIGHT.



THUS ENDS THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S ITIHASA, THE MAHABHARATA.

Mahabharata - 19

THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

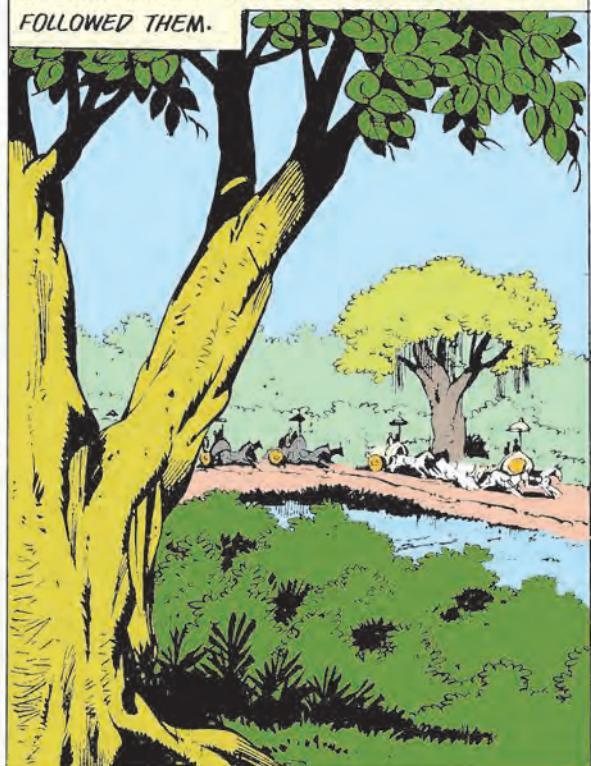
TELL ME, O SAGE, HOW MY ANCESTORS, THE VALIANT SONS OF PANDU, REACTED TO THE HUMILIATIONS METED OUT TO THEM. HOW THESE GREAT SOULS, DEPRIVED OF THEIR WEALTH, SPENT THEIR TWELVE-YEAR EXILE IN THE FOREST.

AND HOW THE PRINCESS DRAUPADI WHO HAD ALWAYS LIVED IN LUXURY, COULD BEAR THE HARSHSHIP OF FOREST LIFE.

"HAVING BEEN DEFEATED BY THE WICKED SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA IN THE DECEITFUL GAME OF DICE, THE PANDAVAS, WITH THEIR ANGER EVOKED, PICKED UP THEIR WEAPONS AND CAME OUT OF HASTINAPURA, ACCOMPANIED BY DRAUPADI.

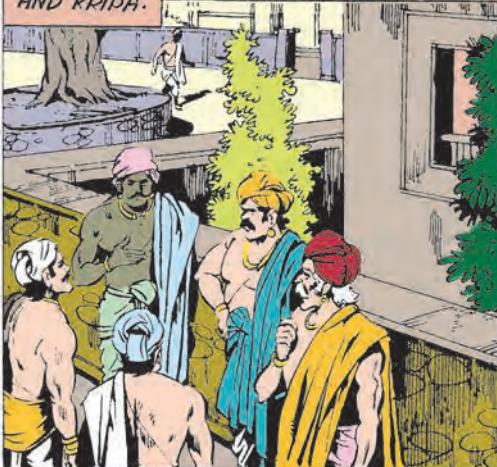


"THEY PROCEEDED NORTHWARDS AND FOURTEEN OF THEIR ATTENDANTS, ALONG WITH THEIR WIVES FOLLOWED THEM.



THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

"ON HEARING THE FATE OF THE PANDAVAS, THE CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA CAME OUT OF THEIR HOMES. IN THEIR SORROW AND ANGER, THEY DID NOT SPARE IN THEIR CRITICISM EVEN BHEESHMA, VIDURA, DRONA AND KRIPA.

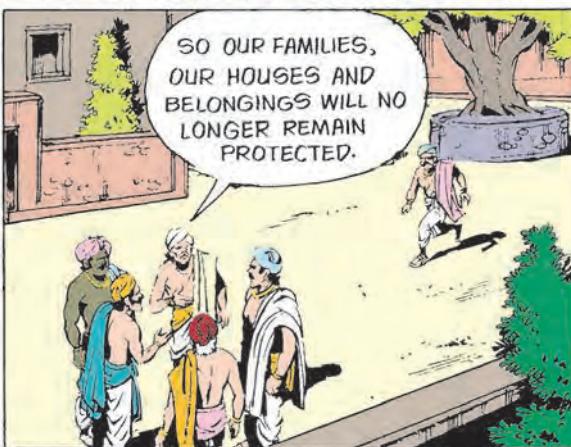


"AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER :

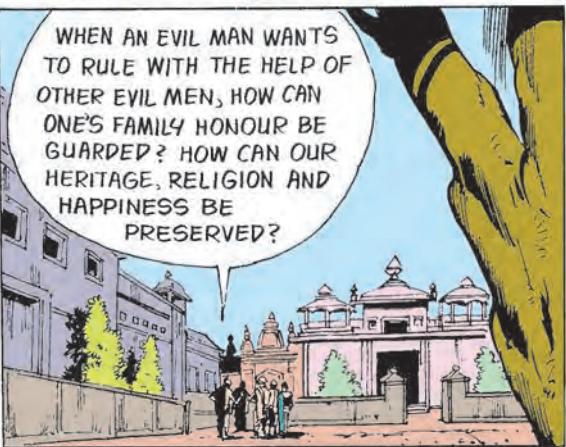
THE SINNER DURYODHANA, AIDED BY SHAKUNI AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF KARNA AND DUHSHASANA, WANTS TO RULE OVER US.



SO OUR FAMILIES, OUR HOUSES AND BELONGINGS WILL NO LONGER REMAIN PROTECTED.

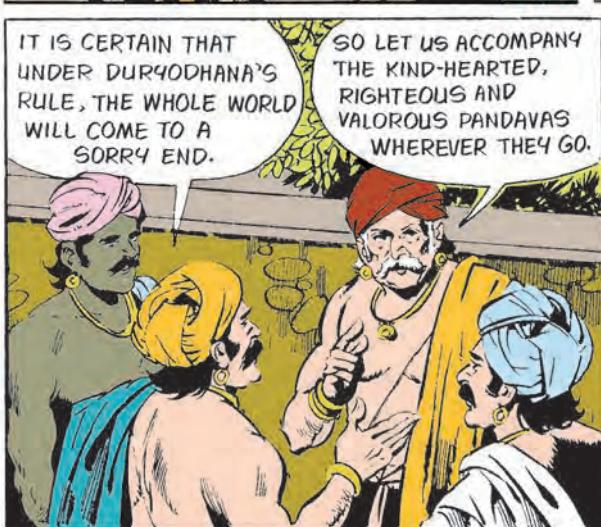


WHEN AN EVIL MAN WANTS TO RULE WITH THE HELP OF OTHER EVIL MEN, HOW CAN ONE'S FAMILY HONOUR BE GUARDED? HOW CAN OUR HERITAGE, RELIGION AND HAPPINESS BE PRESERVED?



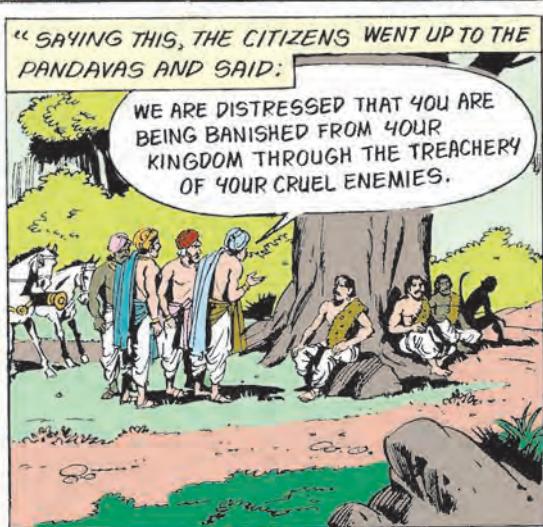
IT IS CERTAIN THAT UNDER DURYODHANA'S RULE, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COME TO A SORRY END.

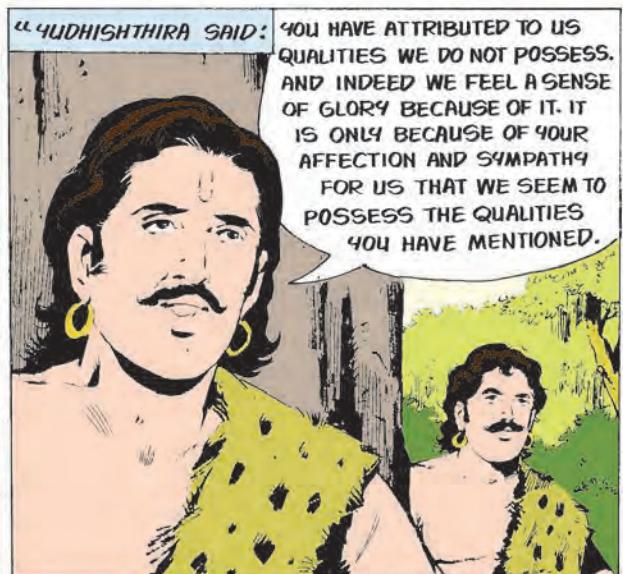
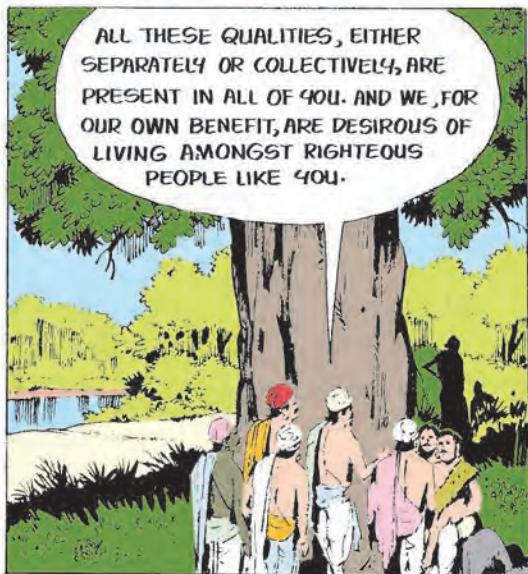
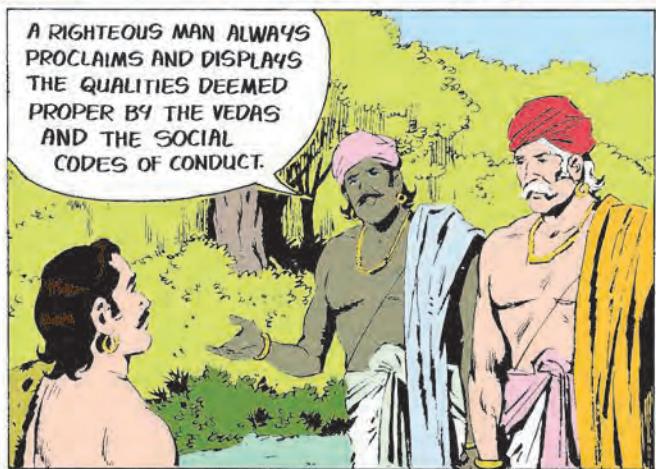
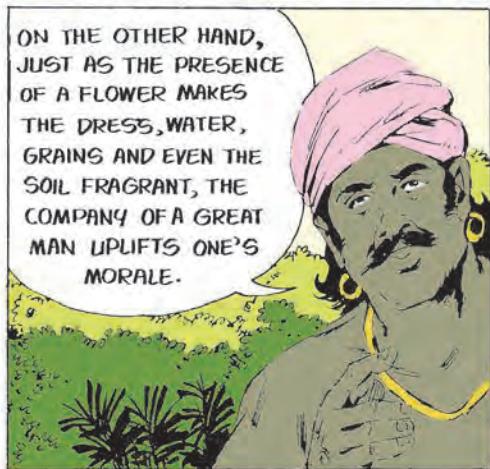
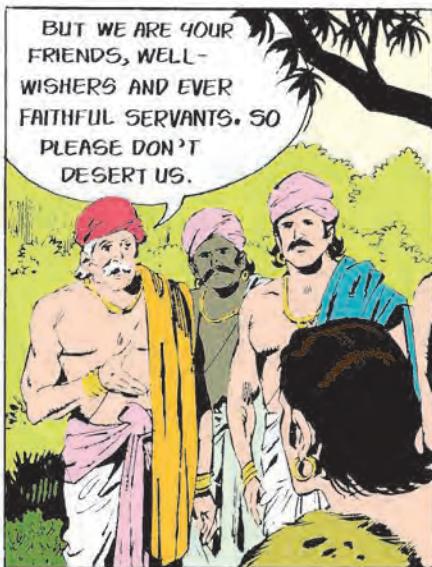
SO LET US ACCOMPANY THE KIND-HEARTED, RIGHTEOUS AND VALOROUS PANDAVAS WHEREVER THEY GO.



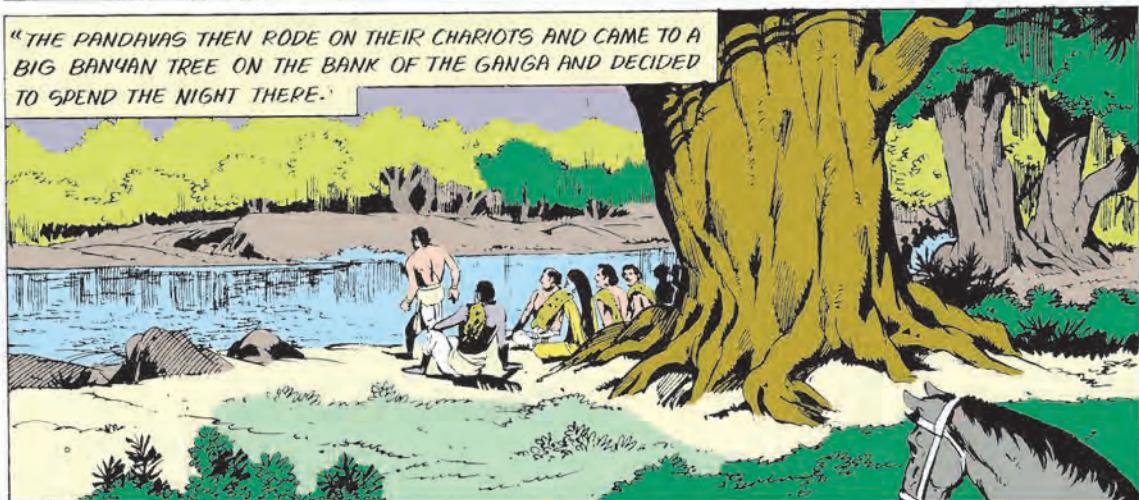
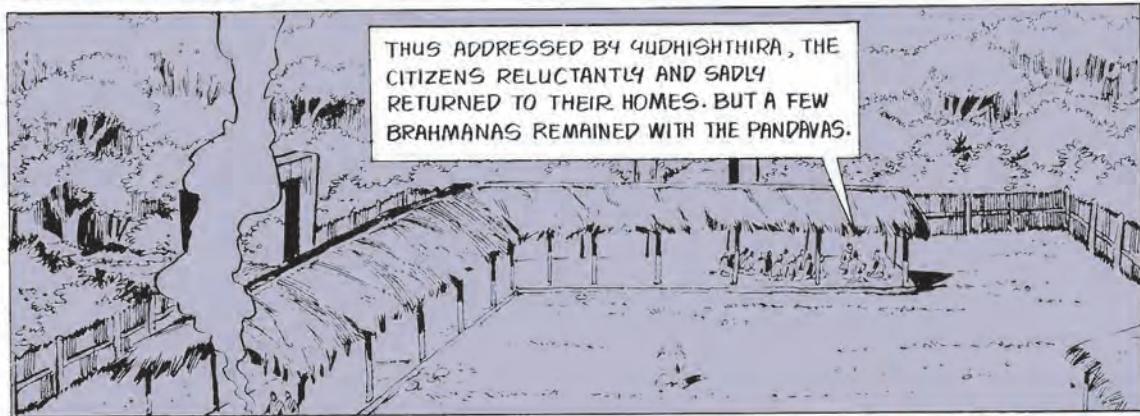
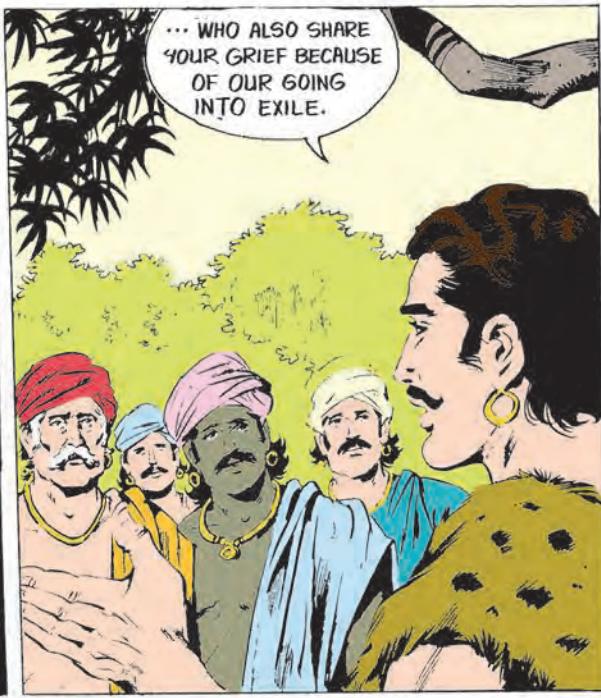
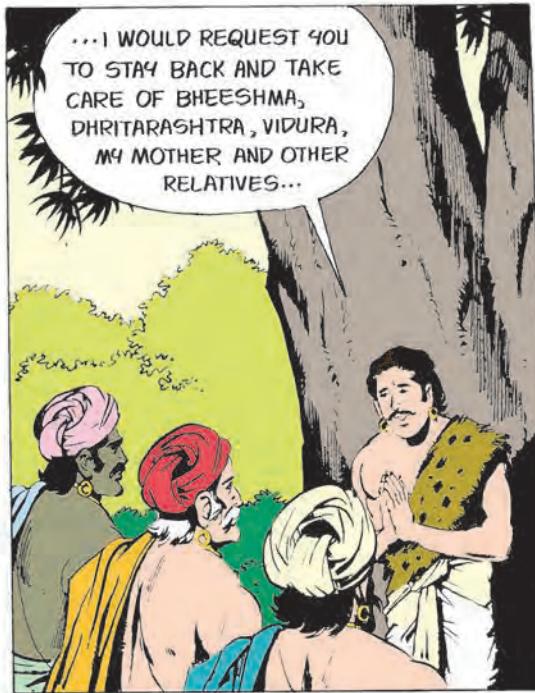
"SAYING THIS, THE CITIZENS WENT UP TO THE PANDAVAS AND SAID:

WE ARE DISTRESSED THAT YOU ARE BEING BANISHED FROM YOUR KINGDOM THROUGH THE TREACHERY OF YOUR CRUEL ENEMIES.





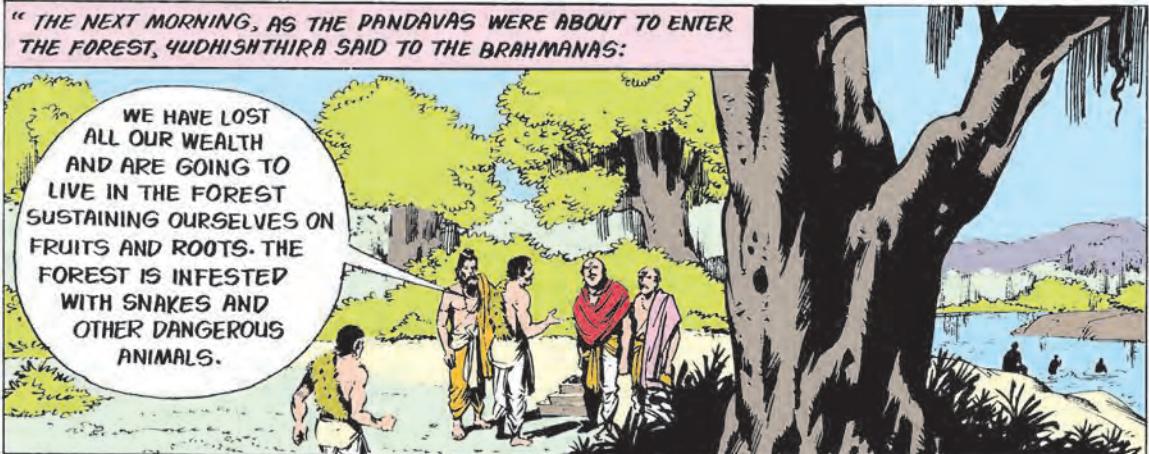
THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST



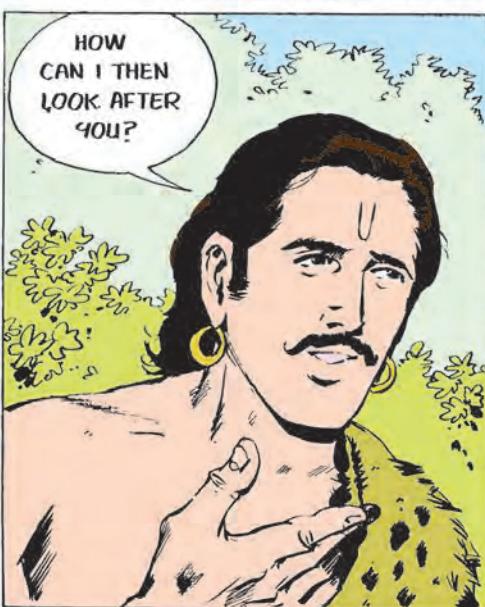
"AT NIGHTFALL, THE BRAHMANAS LIT A SACRIFICIAL FIRE AND ENTERTAINED YUDHISHTHIRA BY CHANTING VEDIC HYMNS AND SAYING WORDS OF ASSURANCE."



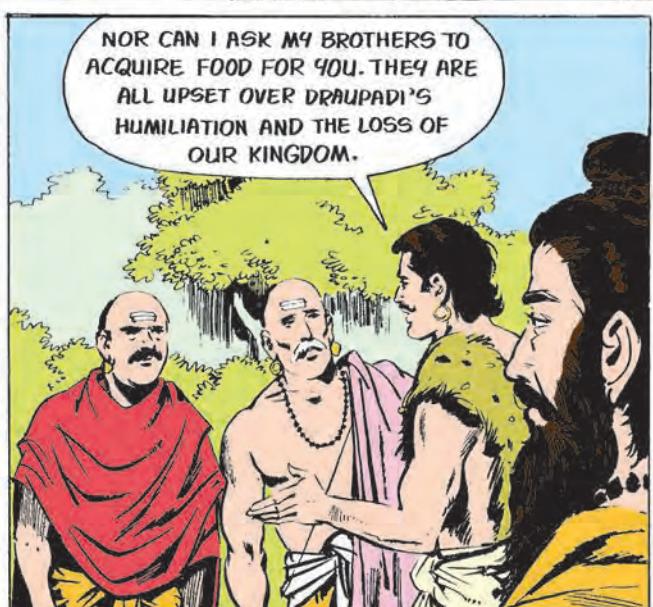
"THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE PANDAVAS WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FOREST, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID TO THE BRAHMANAS:



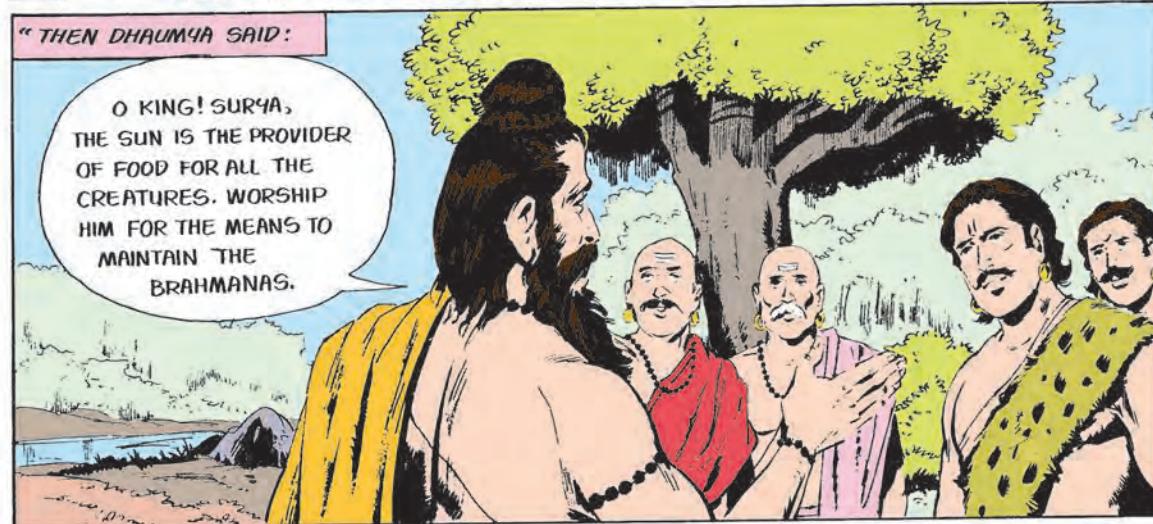
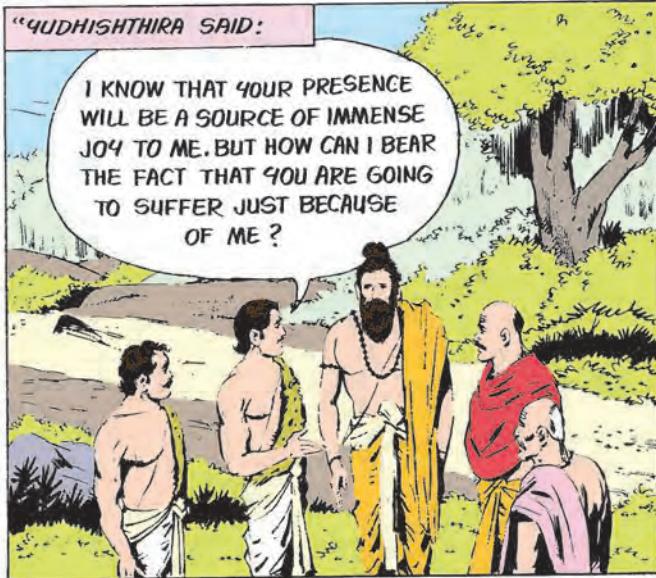
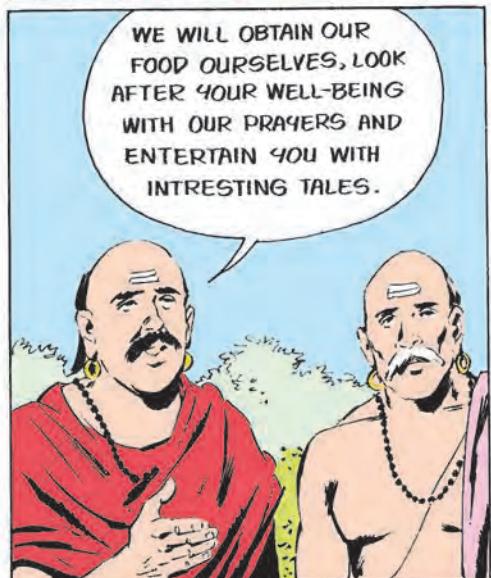
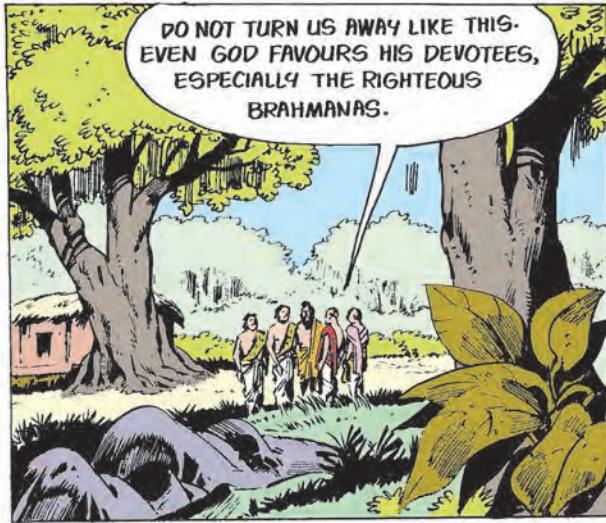
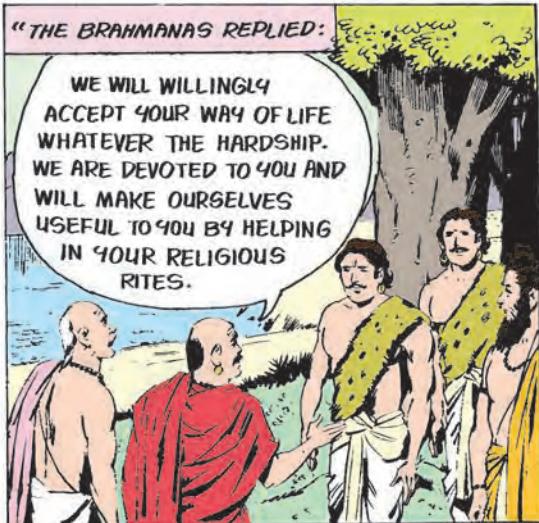
HOW CAN I THEN LOOK AFTER YOU?



NOR CAN I ASK MY BROTHERS TO ACQUIRE FOOD FOR YOU. THEY ARE ALL UPSET OVER DRAUPADI'S HUMILIATION AND THE LOSS OF OUR KINGDOM.



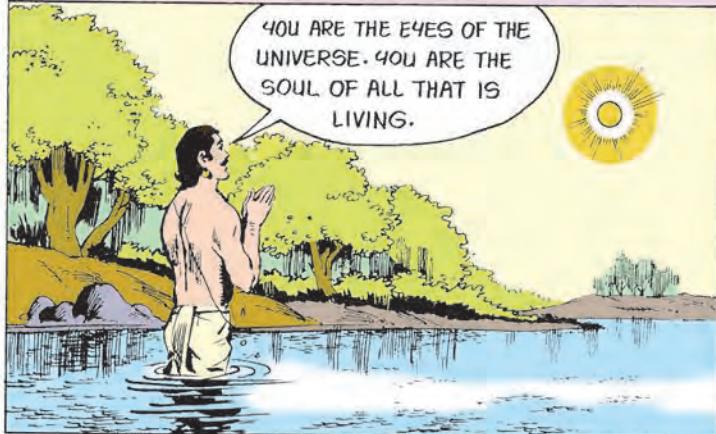
THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST



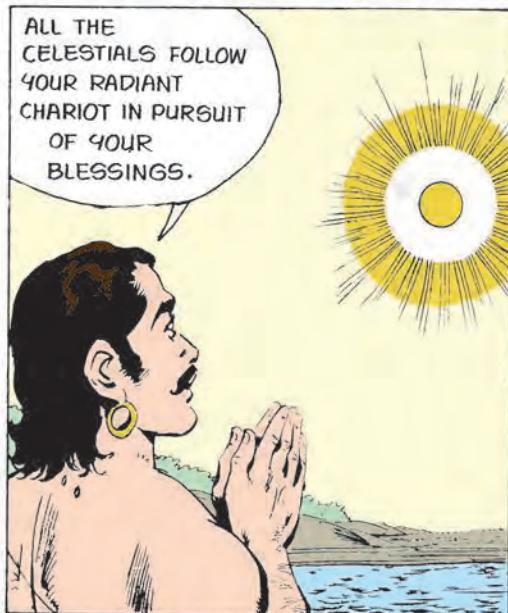
“THUS ADVISED BY DHARMA, O MONARCH, YUDHISHTHIRA STARTED HIS AUSTERITIES TO PROPITIATE SURYA.



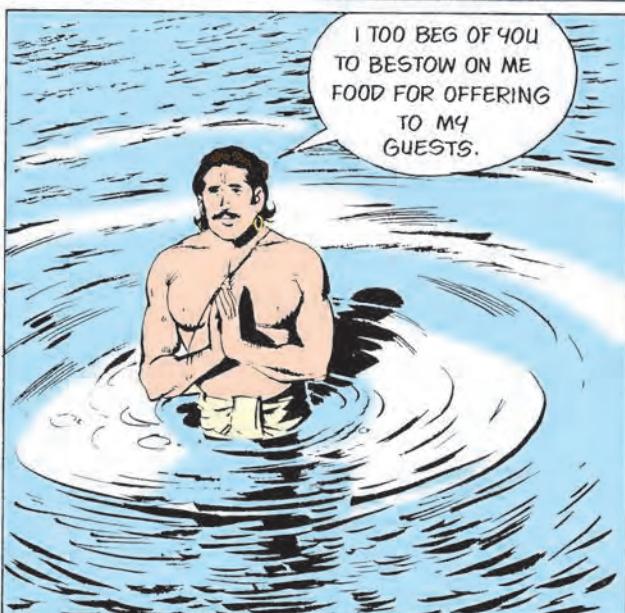
“STANDING IN THE WATERS OF GANGA, YUDHISHTHIRA FACED THE SUN, CONSUMED NOTHING BUT AIR AND OFFERED PRAYERS WITH FLOWERS AND GRAINS.



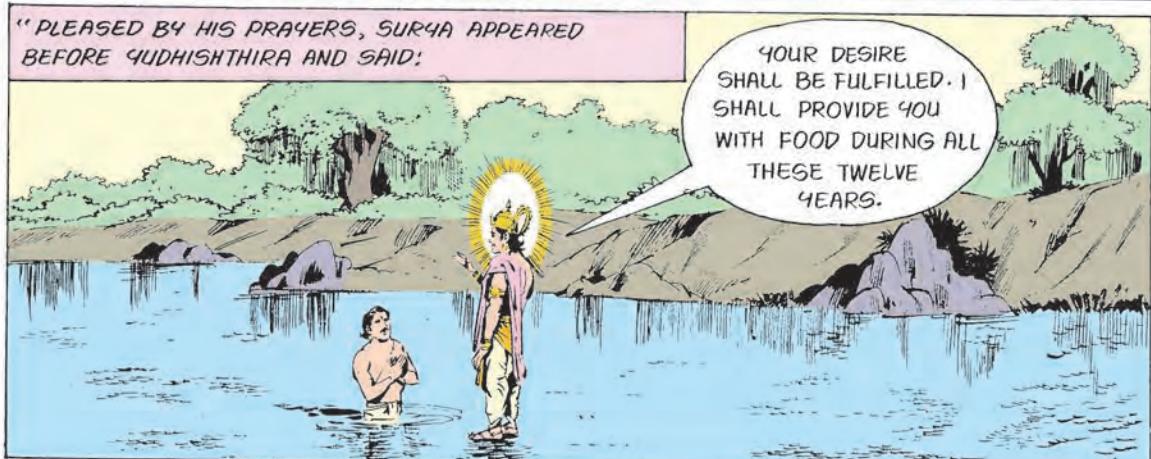
“ALL THE CELESTIALS FOLLOW YOUR RADIANT CHARIOT IN PURSUIT OF YOUR BLESSINGS.

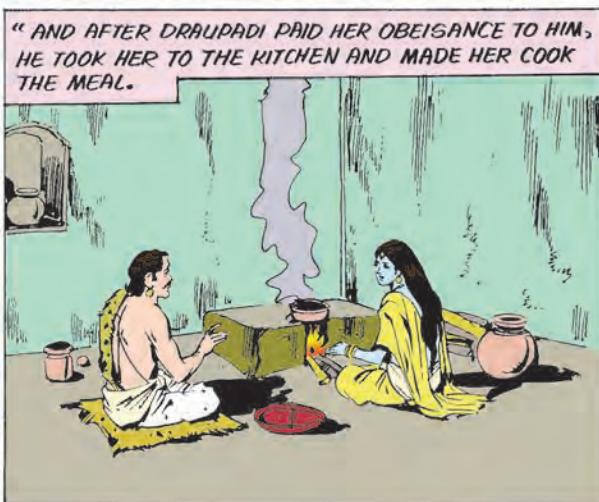
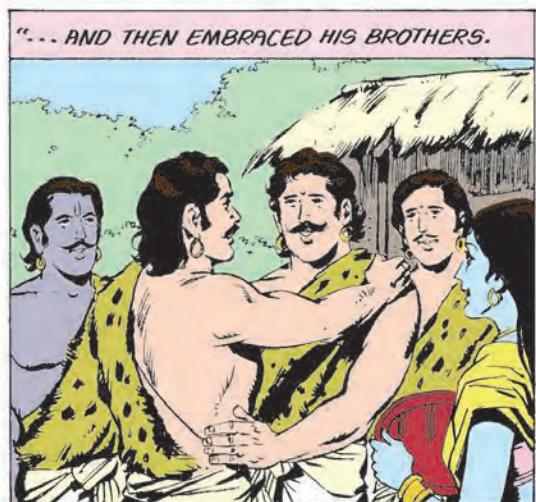
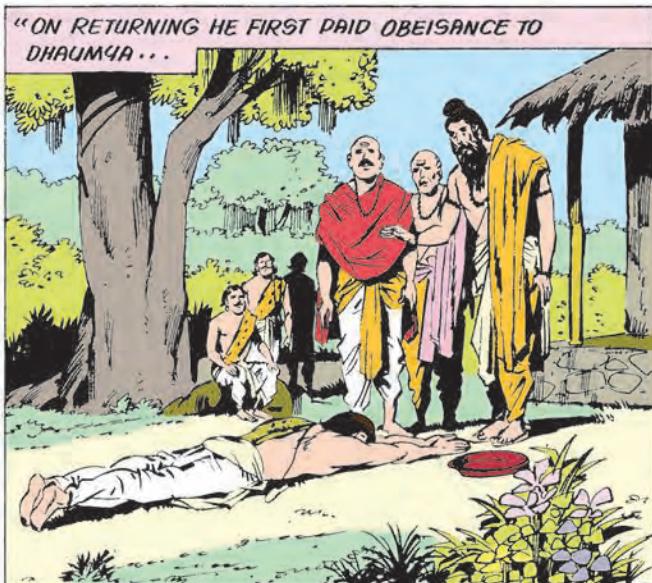
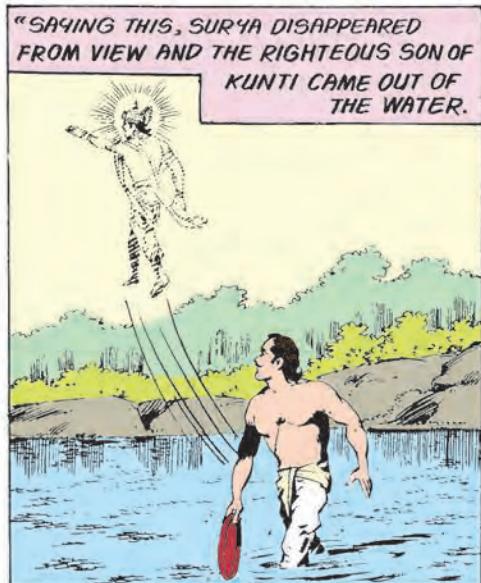
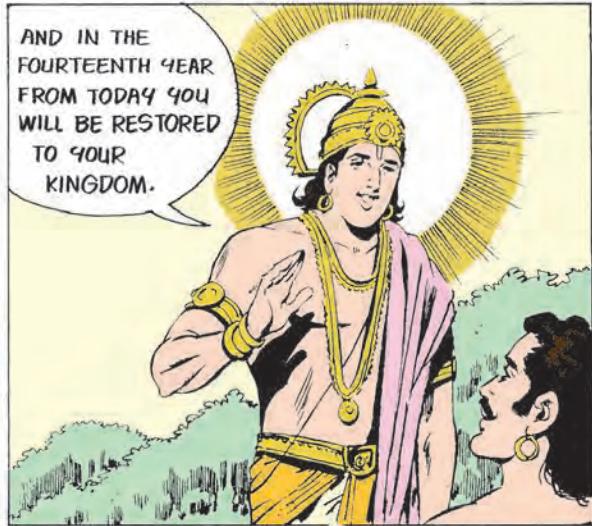
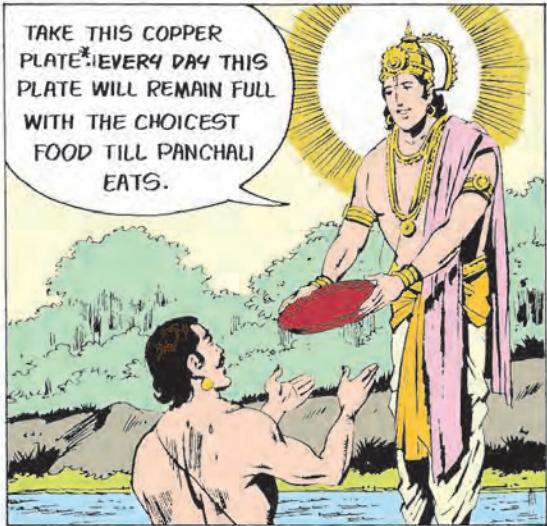


“I TOO BEG OF YOU TO BESTOW ON ME FOOD FOR OFFERING TO MY GUESTS.

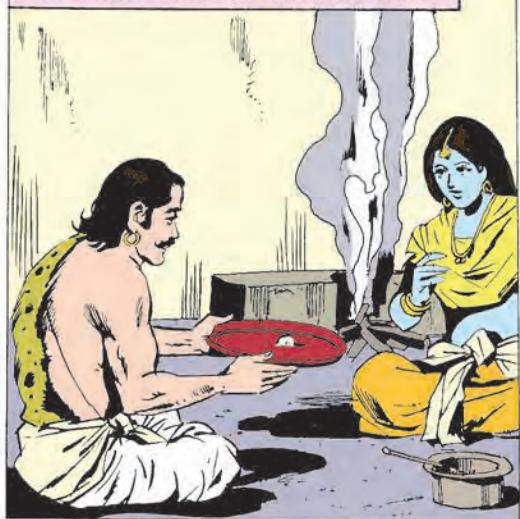


“PLEASED BY HIS PRAYERS, SURYA APPEARED BEFORE YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID:

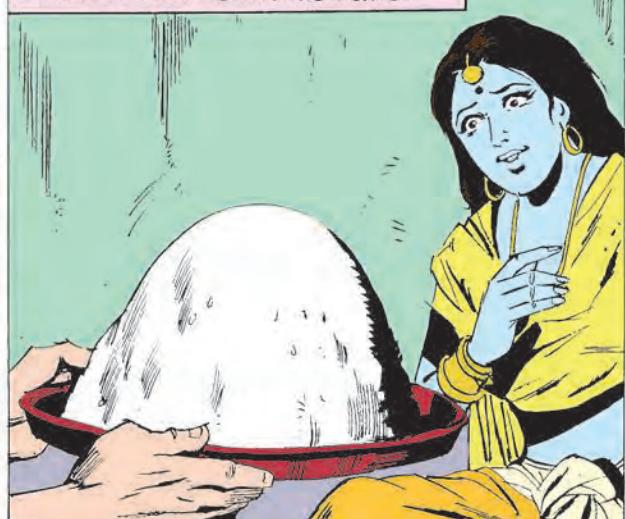




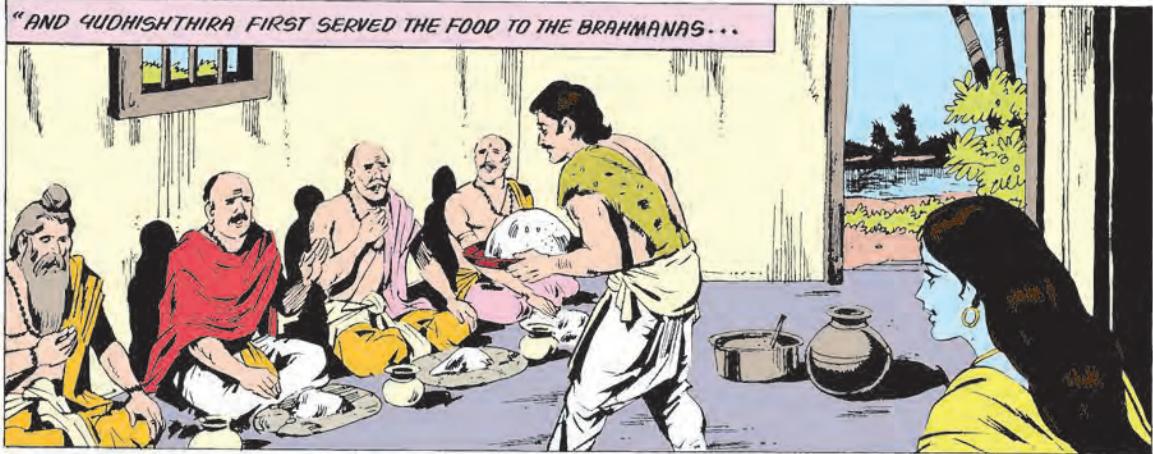
"THE FOOD COOKED WAS MEAGRE...



"...BUT IT GREW TO FILL THE PLATE.



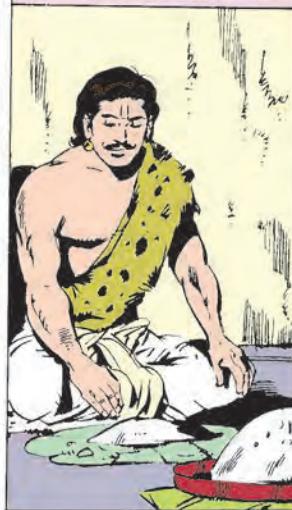
"AND YUDHISHTHIRA FIRST SERVED THE FOOD TO THE BRAHMANAS...



"...THEN TO HIS BROTHERS ...

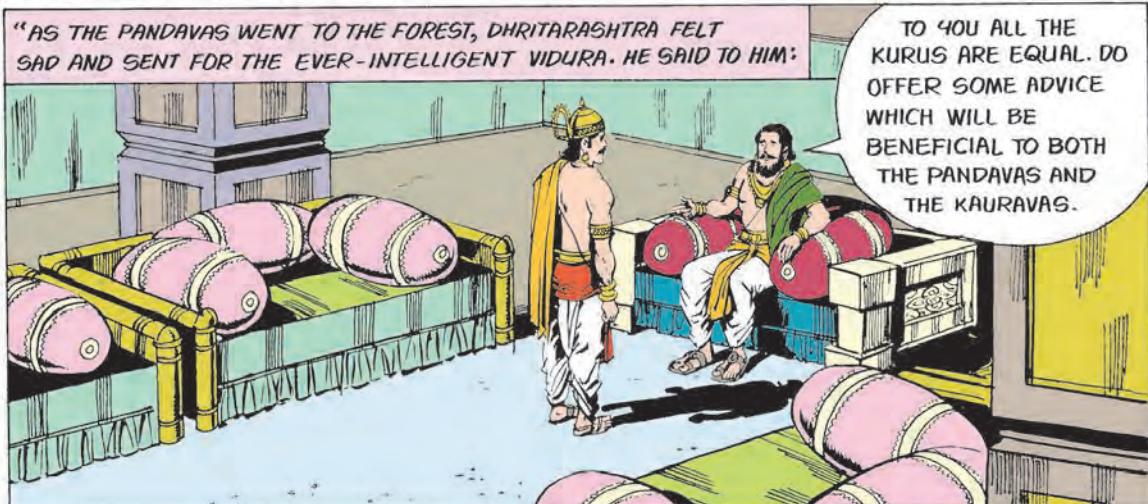
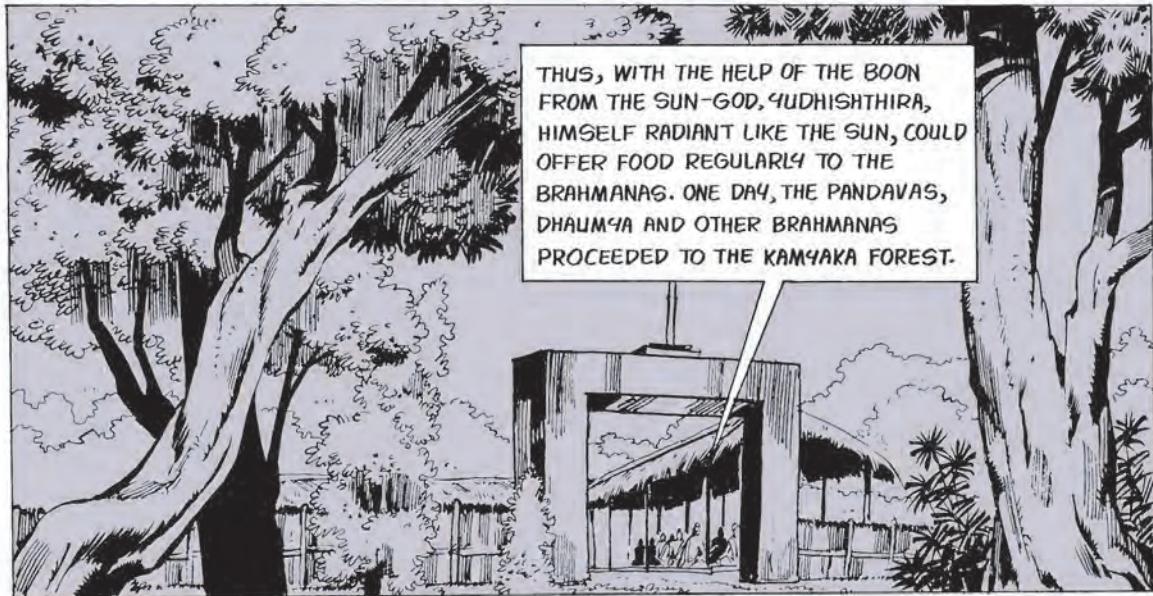


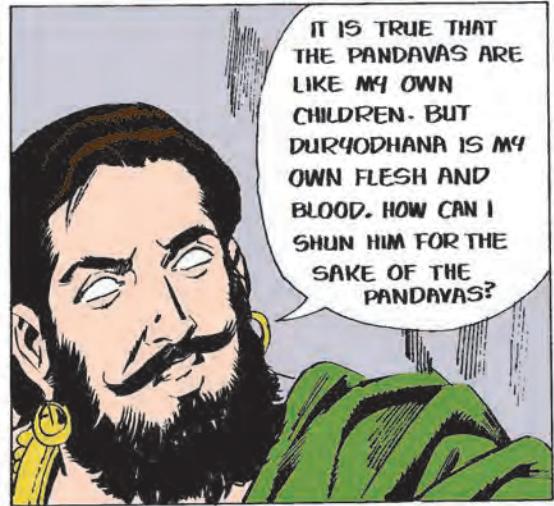
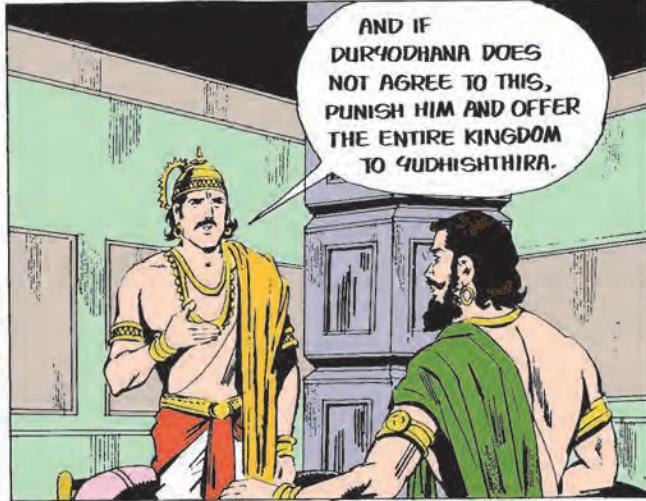
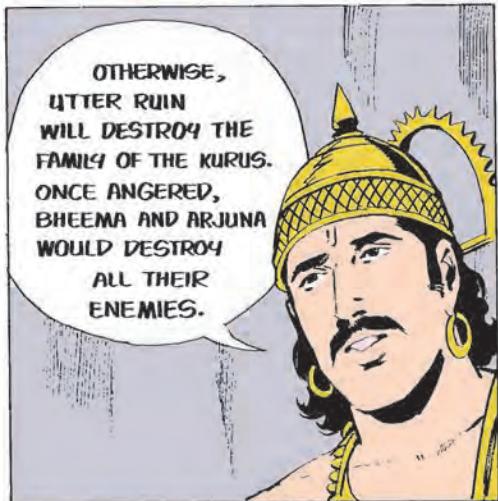
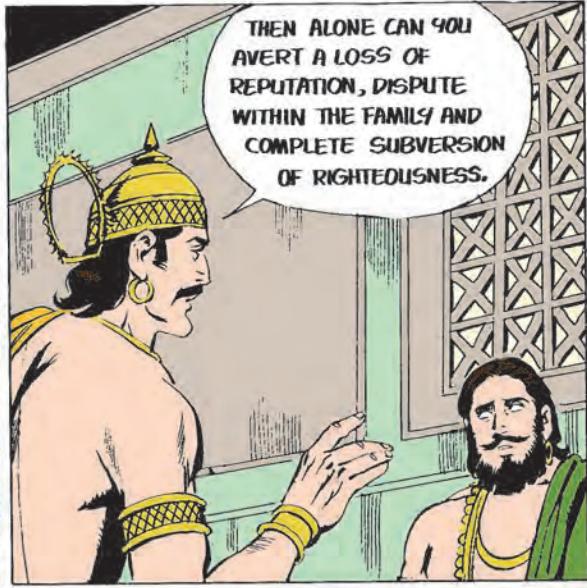
"...AND THEN ATE THE LEFT-OVERS HIMSELF.

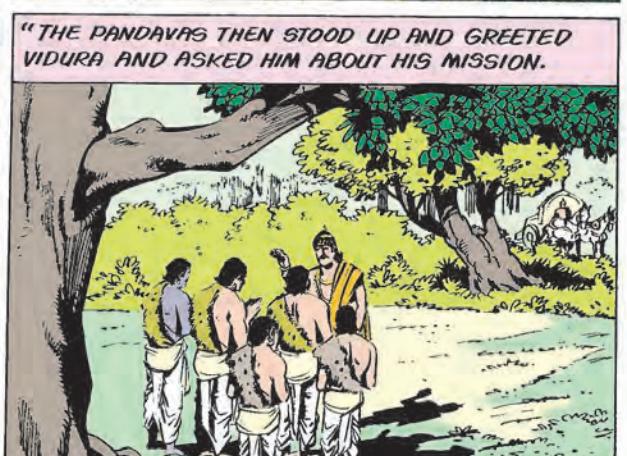
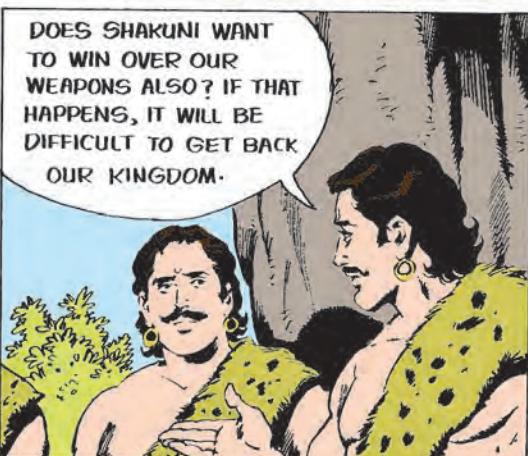
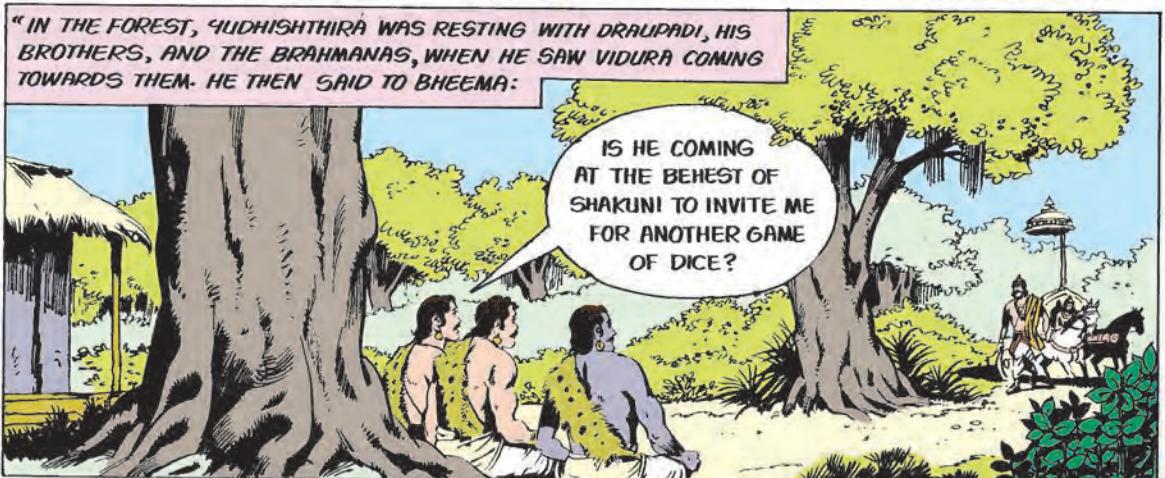
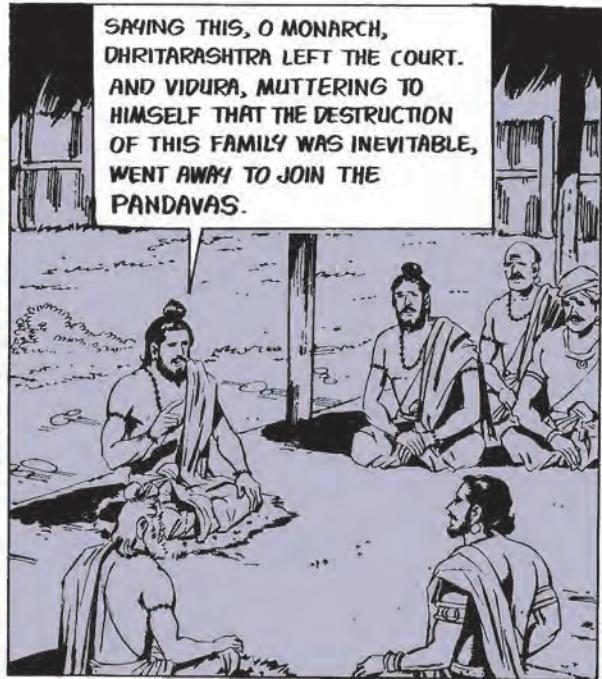
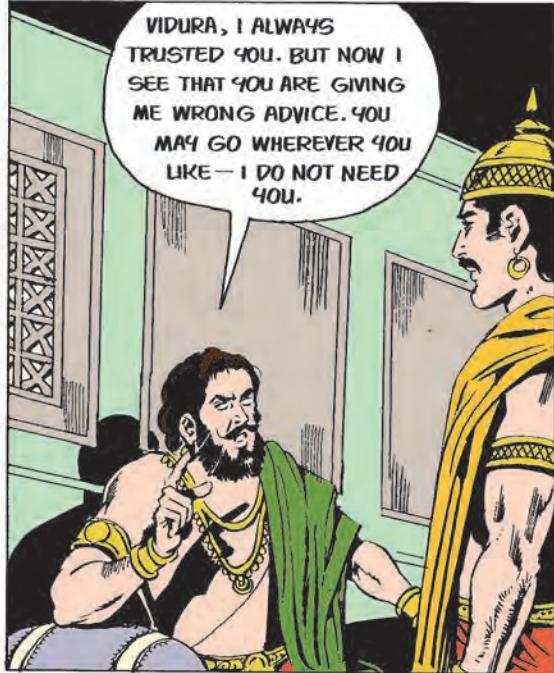


"AND ONLY WHEN DRAUPADI FINALLY FINISHED HER MEAL DID THE PLATE BECOME EMPTY.









"VIDURA TOLD THEM ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION WITH DHRITARASHTRA AND SAID:

LIKE AN AILING PERSON WHO LOSES HIS TASTE FOR FOOD, DHRITARASHTRA DID NOT PAY ANY HEED TO MY ADVICE.

NOW LISTEN TO MY ADVICE: ONE WHO FOLLOWS THE PATH OF FORGIVENESS IN SPITE OF GREAT SUFFERING...

...AND SHARES HIS FORTUNES WITH HIS ALLIES, WINS MASTERY OVER THE WHOLE WORLD.

"WHILE VIDURA WAS ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH THE PANDAVAS, SANJAYA, THE MESSENGER OF DHRITARASHTRA, CAME THERE.

O VIDURA!
DHRITARASHTRA IS
REMEMBERING YOU.
SAVE HIS LIFE BY
GOING BACK TO HIM.

HEARING THIS, VIDURA
TOOK LEAVE OF THE
PANDAVAS, AND
RETURNED TO
HASTINAPURA.

"DHRITARASHTRA EMBRACED HIM AND SAID:

FORTUNATE
I AM THAT YOU
HAVE COME BACK
TO ME. PLEASE
FORGIVE ME.



"VIDURA SAID:

O KING, I HAVE
ALREADY FORGIVEN
YOU. YOU ARE MY
MASTER. YOUR SONS
AND THE PANDAVAS—
BOTH ARE EQUALLY
DEAR TO ME.
BUT...

... SEEING THE PANDAVAS
IN DISTRESS, I SHOWED
MORE CONCERN ABOUT
THEM.



"HE CALLED SHAKUNI, KARNA AND DUHSHASANA:

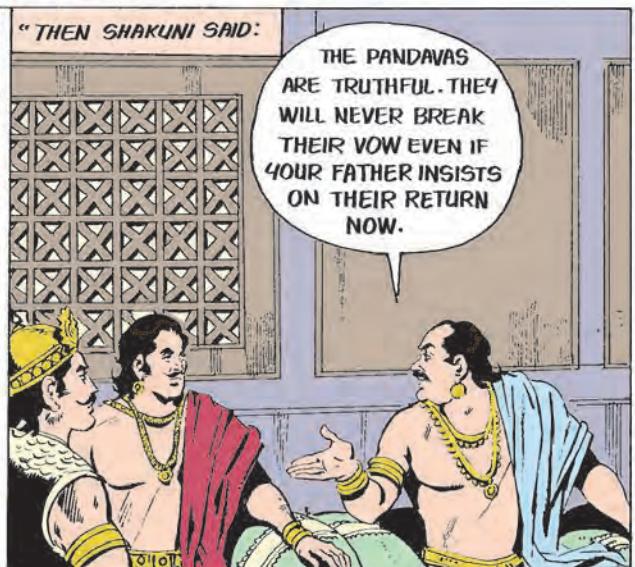
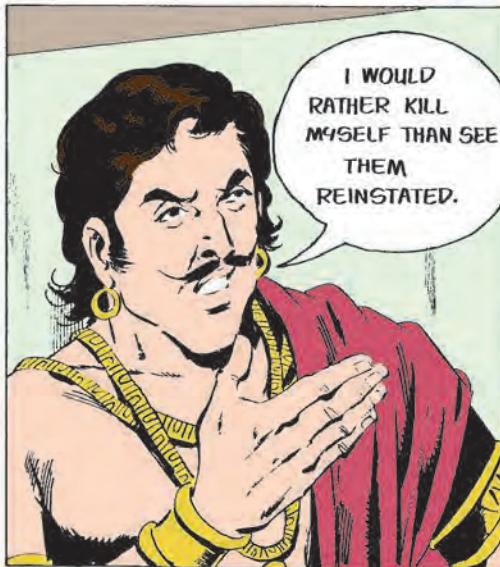
VIDURA IS
ALWAYS A FRIEND
TO THE SONS OF PANDU.
I SEEK YOUR ADVICE, SO
THAT HE DOES NOT
SUCCEED IN PERSUADING
FATHER TO
BRING BACK THE
PANDAVAS.



I WOULD
RATHER KILL
MYSELF THAN SEE
THEM
REINSTATED.

"THEN SHAKUNI SAID:

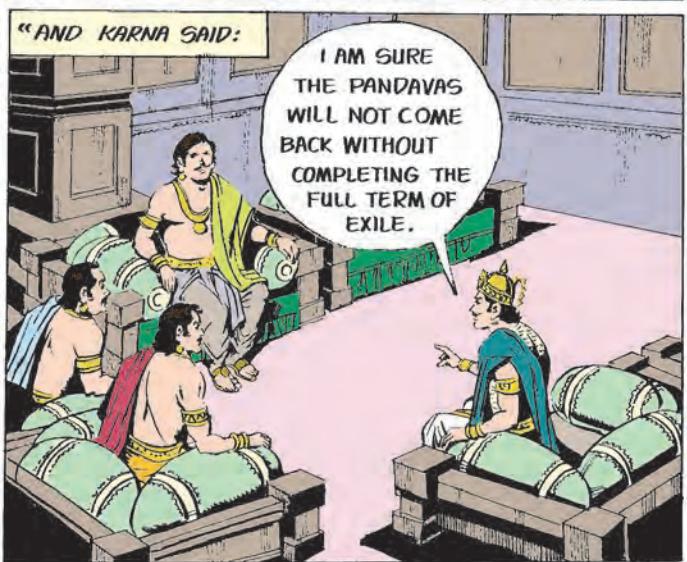
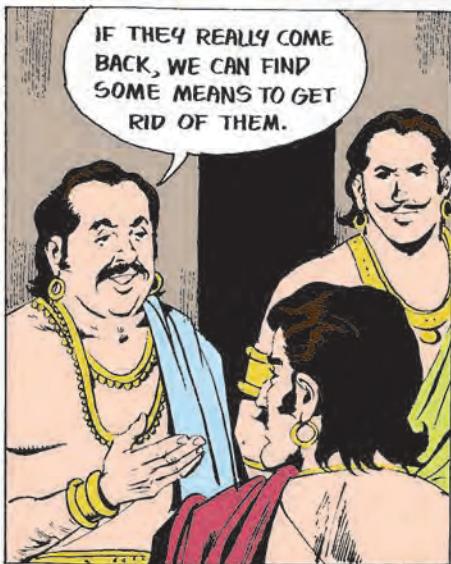
THE PANDAVAS
ARE TRUTHFUL. THEY
WILL NEVER BREAK
THEIR VOW EVEN IF
YOUR FATHER INSISTS
ON THEIR RETURN
NOW.

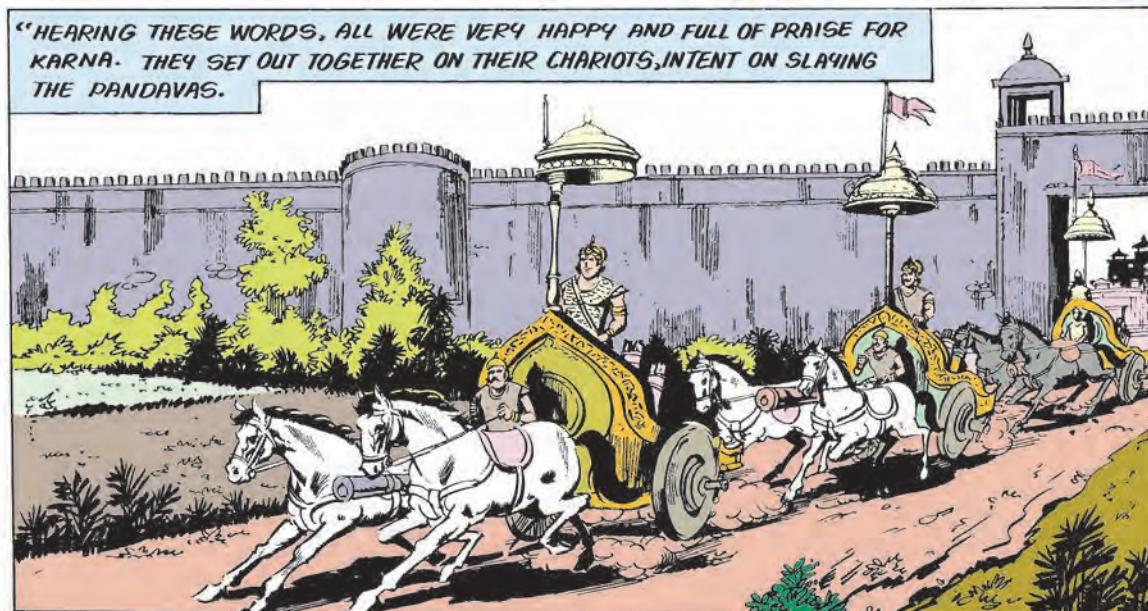
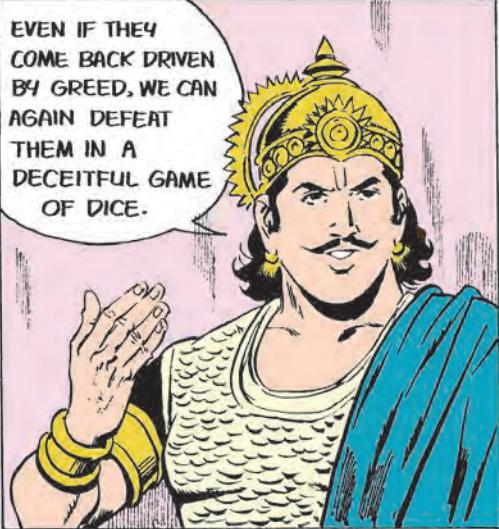


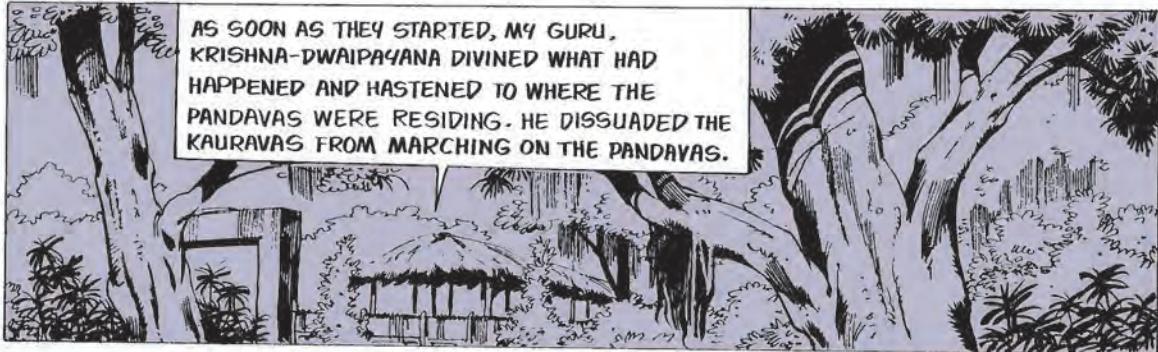
IF THEY REALLY COME
BACK, WE CAN FIND
SOME MEANS TO GET
RID OF THEM.

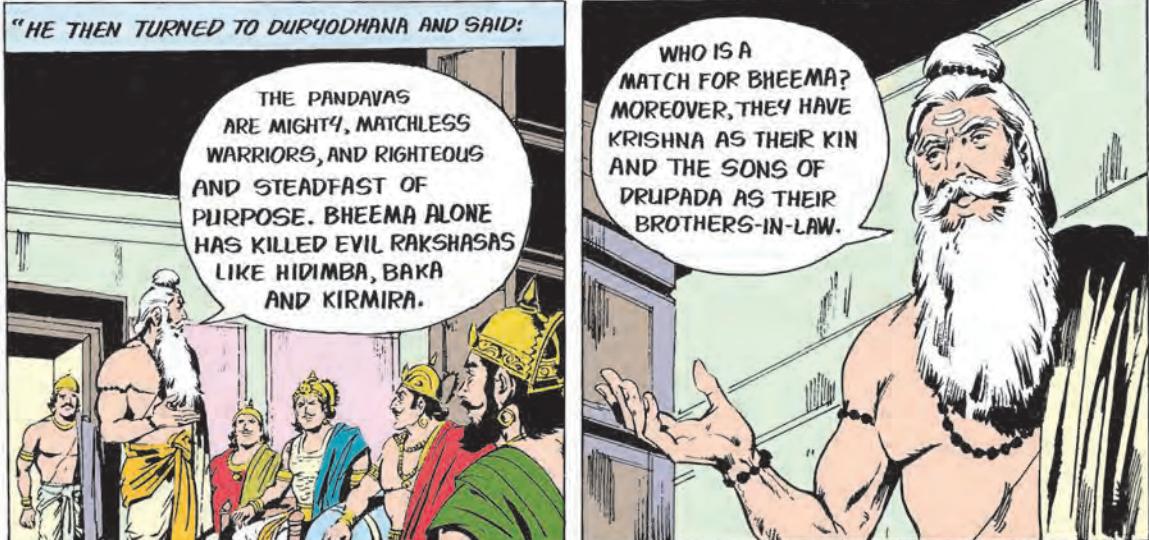
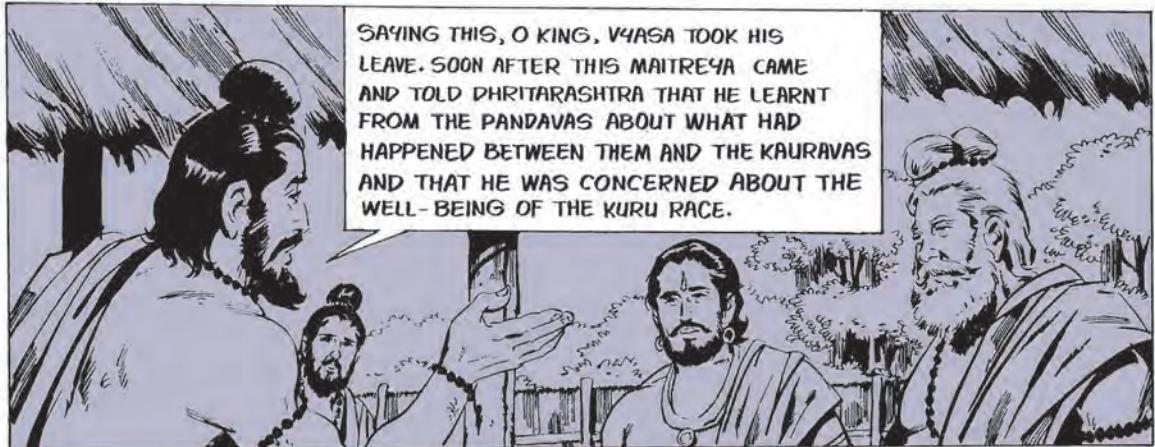
"AND KARNA SAID:

I AM SURE
THE PANDAVAS
WILL NOT COME
BACK WITHOUT
COMPLETING THE
FULL TERM OF
EXILE.









"ANGERED, THE SAGE SAID:

THE DISRESPECT
YOU SHOWED TO ME
AND WHAT I SPOKE SHALL
BRING ABOUT YOUR
DESTRUCTION. THE MIGHTY
BHEEMA WILL BREAK
YOUR THIGHS WITH
HIS MACE.

"ALARMED, DHRITARASHTRA TRIED TO
APPEASE THE SAGE AND PLEADED FOR
FORGIVENESS. THEN MAITREYA SAID:

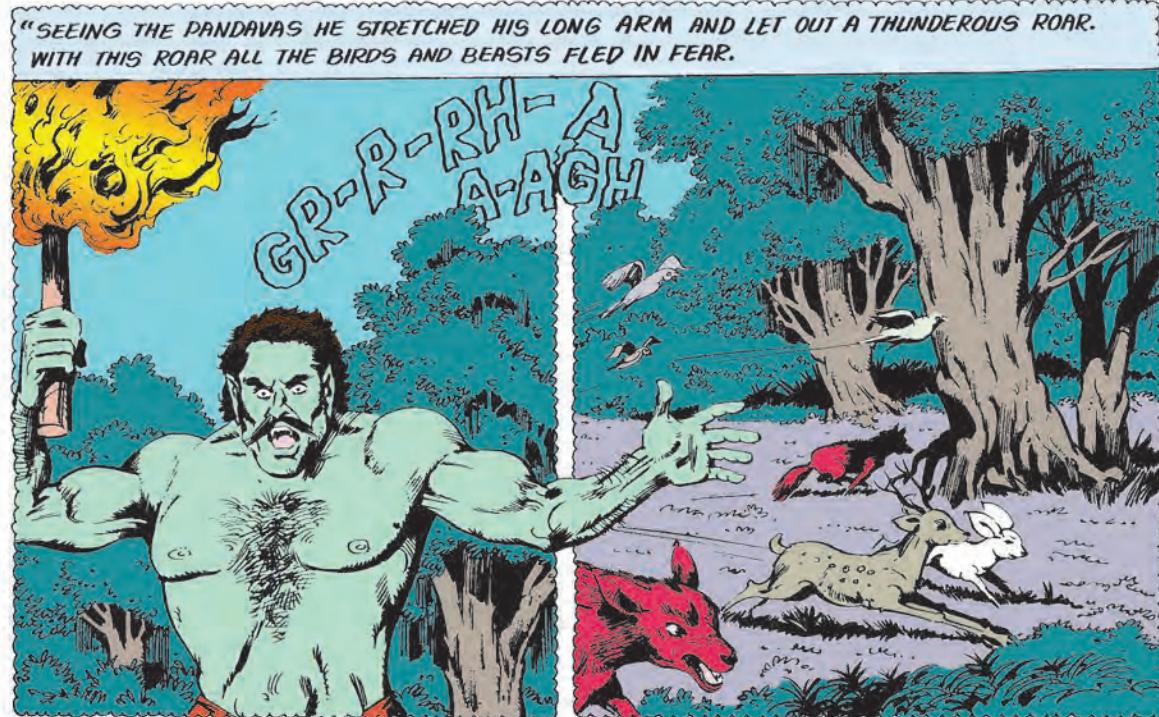
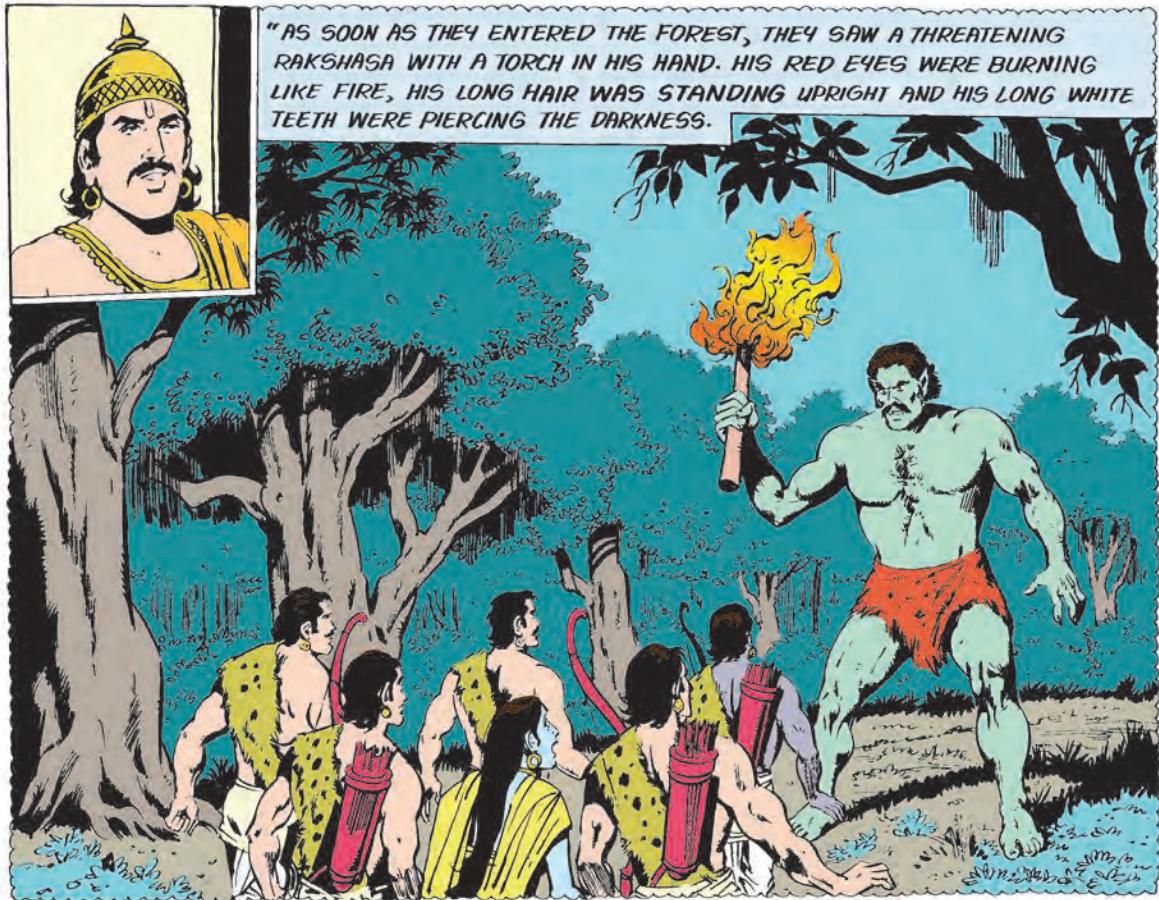
THE SPELL OF
MY CURSE WILL BE
BROKEN ONLY IF
DURYODHANA
BEFRIENDS THE
PANDAVAS.

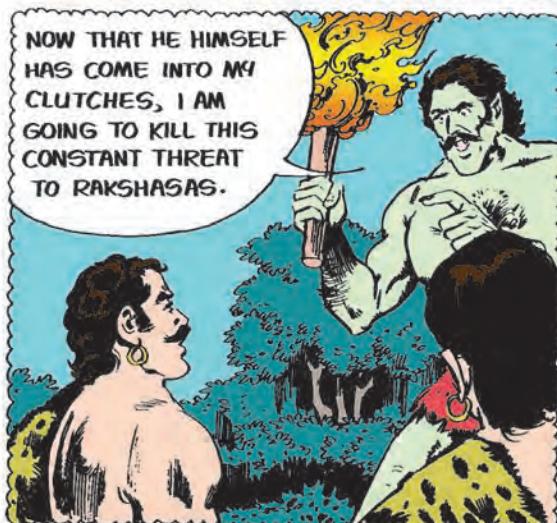
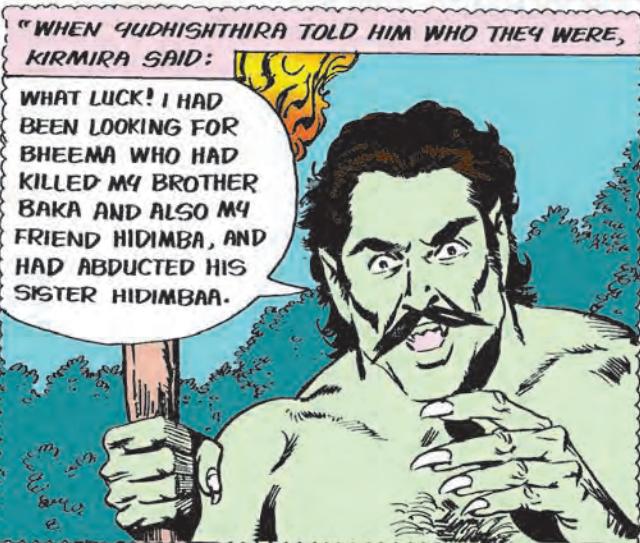
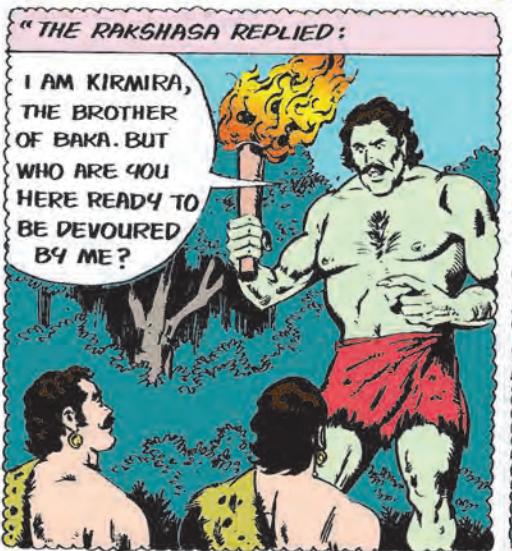
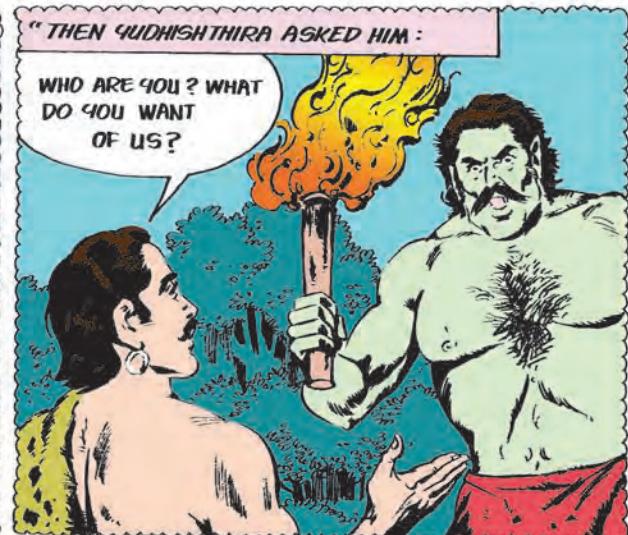
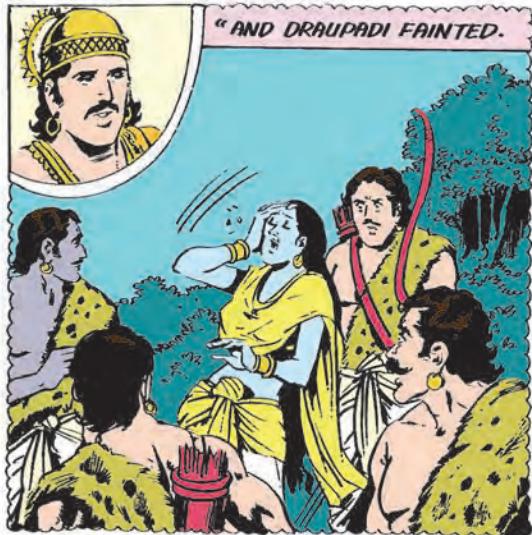
DURYODHANA LEFT THE COURT MUCH
TROUBLED IN MIND. THEN, TO ASSESS
THE MIGHT OF BHEEMA, DHRITARASHTRA
DESIRED TO KNOW HOW BHEEMA
KILLED KIRMIRA. BUT THE ANGRY
MAITREYA LEFT WITHOUT SAYING
ANYTHING MORE. HOWEVER, VIDURA
AGREED TO NARRATE THE INCIDENT.

"VIDURA SAID:

THREE DAYS AFTER THEY
LEFT THIS PLACE, THE PANDAVAS
IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT,
REACHED KAMYAKA, A FOREST
INFESTED WITH MAN-EATING
RAKSHASAS.

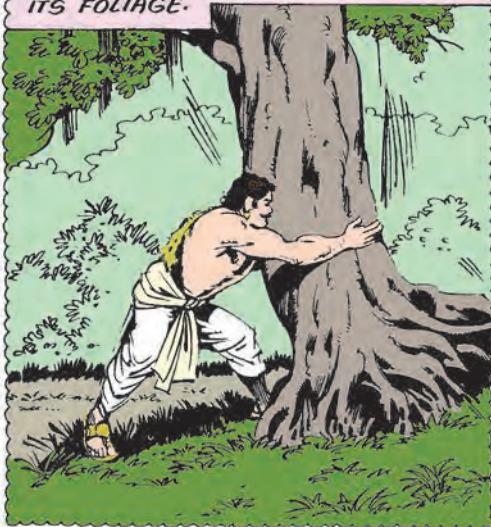
THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST





THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

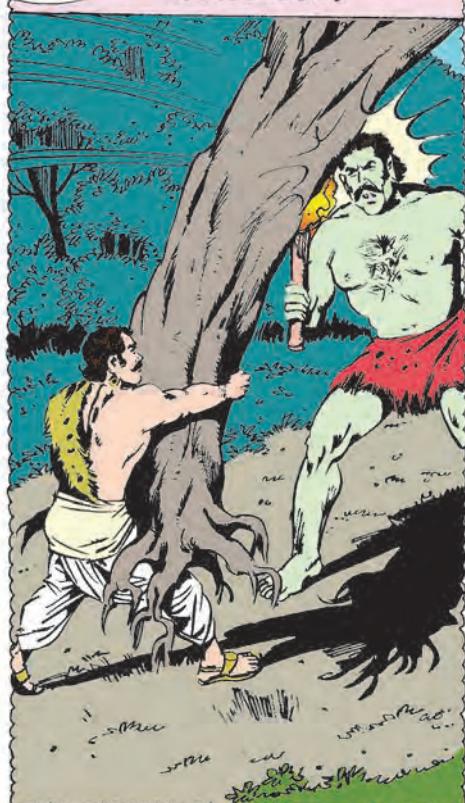
"THEN THE MIGHTY BHEEMA UPROOTED A HUGE TREE AND REMOVED ALL ITS FOLIAGE.



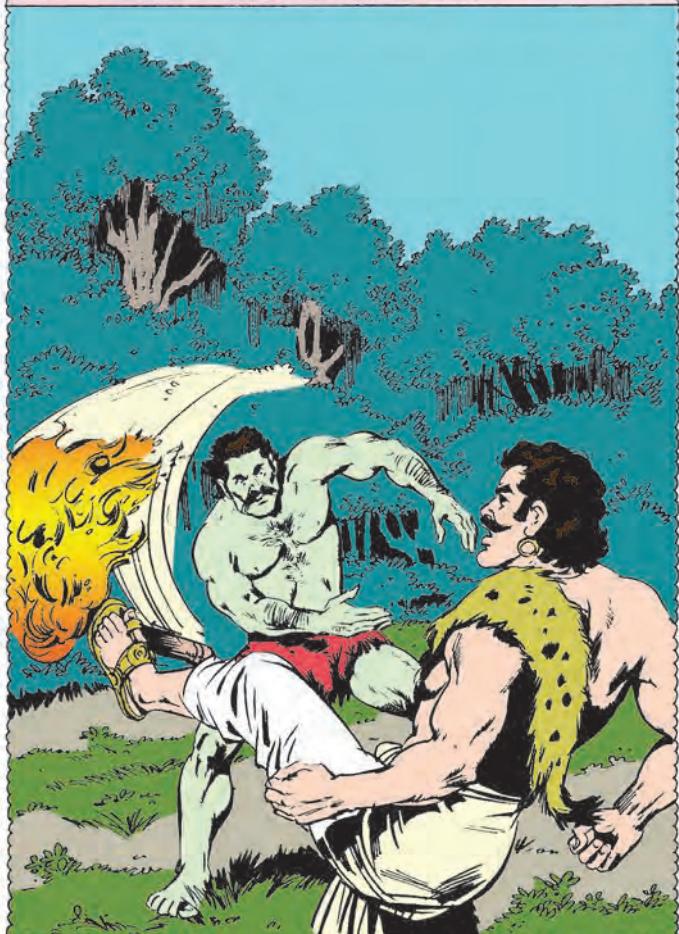
"ARJUNA ALSO READIED HIS GANDEEVA BOW.



 "BHEEMA STOPPED ARJUNA, AND THEN GOING FORWARD HIT THE RAKSHASA ON HIS HEAD WITH THE MIGHT OF INDRA WIELDING HIS THUNDERBOLT.



"UNMOVED, THE RAKSHASA HURLED THE TORCH AT BHEEMA WHO EASILY STOPPED IT WITH HIS LEFT FOOT.



"KIRMIRA TOO UPROOTED A TREE. THE TWO FOUGHT EACH OTHER WITH TREES AS WEAPONS. AND THE TREES BROKE AS REEDS IN THE COURSE OF THE FIGHT.



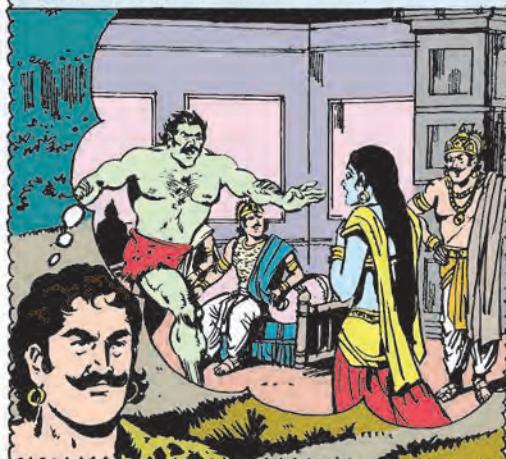
"AFTER BATTLED WITH TREES FOR SOME TIME, THE ANGRY RAKSHASA LIFTED A ROCK AND THREW IT AT BHEEMA.



"AND SEEING HIM UNDAUNTED, RUSHED AT HIM AND CAUGHT HIM BY HIS ARMS.



"BHEEMA WAS STILL BURNING WITH ANGER BECAUSE OF THE INSULTS HEADED ON DRAUPADI BY DURYODHANA. HIS WHOLE WRATH NOW FELL ON KIRMIRA.



"HE CAUGHT KIRMIRA BY HIS WAIST AND SHOOK HIM AND THE RAKSHASA TREMBLED LIKE A TREE IN A STORM.

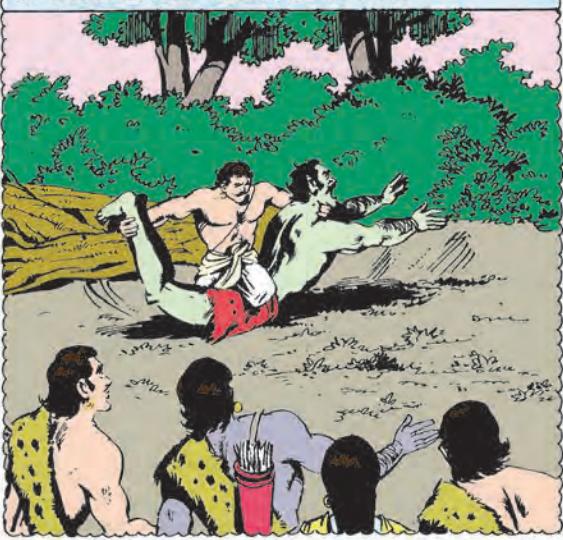


THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

"AS HE TRIED TO CRUSH KIRMIRA IN HIS ARMS, THE RAKSHASA SCREAMED IN PAIN.



"SEEING THAT THE RAKSHASA HAD ALMOST FAINTED, HE PLACED HIS KNEE ON THE WRIST OF KIRMIRA AND STRANGLED HIM.



"VIDURA ENDED HIS STORY:

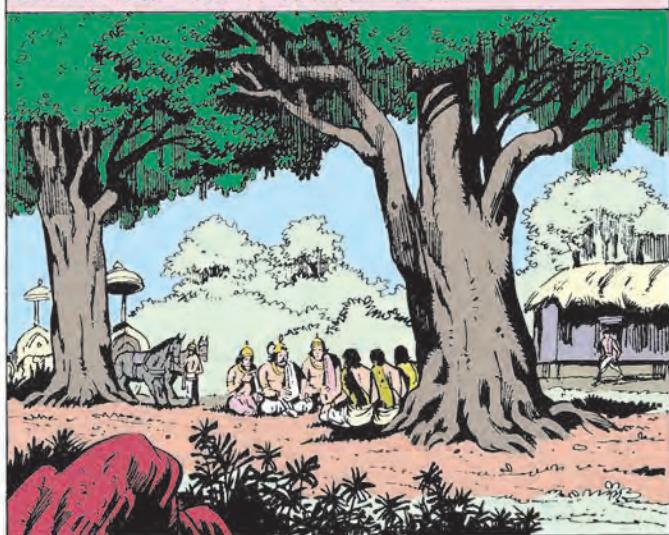
O MONARCH! ON MY WAY, I SAW LYING THERE THE BODY OF KIRMIRA SLAIN BY BHEEMA. AND I HEARD OF THIS SUPER-HUMAN DEED OF BHEEMA FROM THE BRAHMANAS WHO WERE PRESENT THERE.



HEARING IN DETAIL HOW BHEEMA HAD KILLED KIRMIRA, KING DHRITARASHTRA HEAVED A DEEP SIGH AND BECAME IMMERSSED IN THOUGHT.



"ON LEARNING THAT THE PANDAVAS HAD GONE INTO EXILE, THE BHOJAS, THE ANDHAKAS AND THE VRISHNIS CAME TO THE FOREST TO MEET THEM.

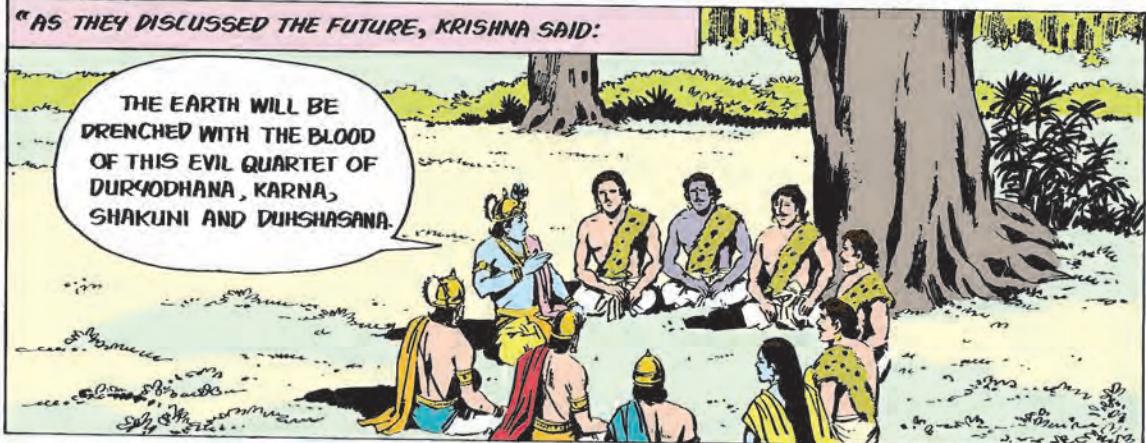


"THE PANCHALA PRINCE, DHRISTADYUMNA AND THE KING OF CHEDI, DHRISHTAKETU AND THE VALOROUS PRINCE OF KEKAYA ALSO CAME THERE CURSING THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA. WITH KRISHNA AT THEIR HEAD, ALL THOSE KSHATRIYA CHIEFS SAT, SURROUNDING THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA."



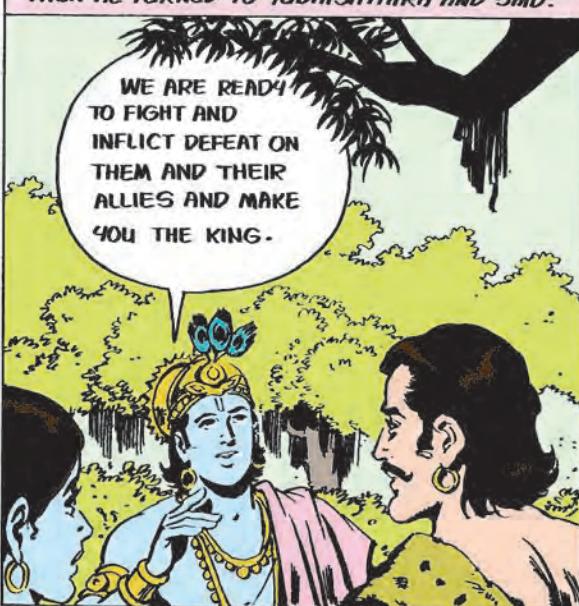
"AS THEY DISCUSSED THE FUTURE, KRISHNA SAID:

THE EARTH WILL BE DRENCHED WITH THE BLOOD OF THIS EVIL QUARTET OF DURYODHANA, KARNA, SHAKUNI AND DHUSHASANA.

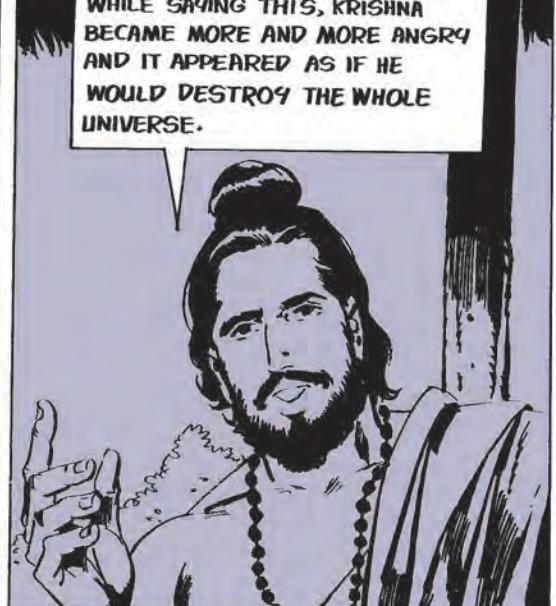


"THEN HE TURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID:

WE ARE READY TO FIGHT AND INFILCT DEFEAT ON THEM AND THEIR ALLIES AND MAKE YOU THE KING.

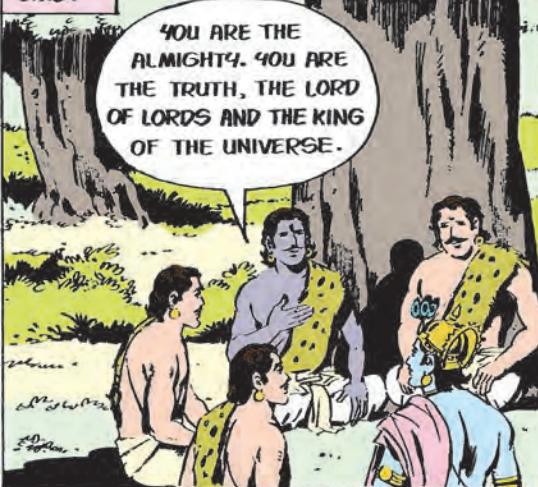


WHILE SAYING THIS, KRISHNA BECAME MORE AND MORE ANGRY AND IT APPEARED AS IF HE WOULD DESTROY THE WHOLE UNIVERSE.



"THEN ARJUNA RECOUNTED EPISODES FROM KRISHNA'S PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS AND SAID:

YOU ARE THE ALMIGHTY. YOU ARE THE TRUTH, THE LORD OF LORDS AND THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE.

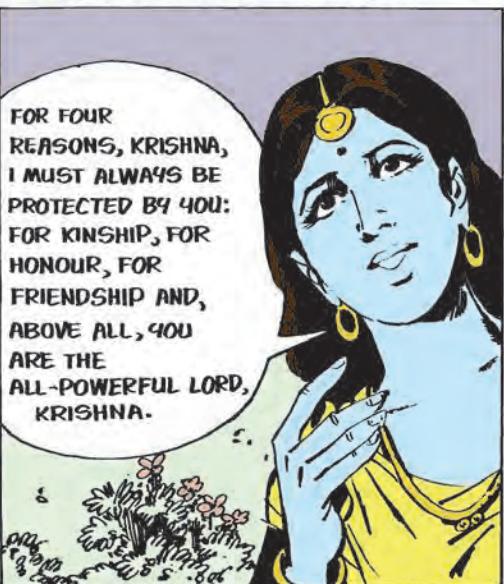
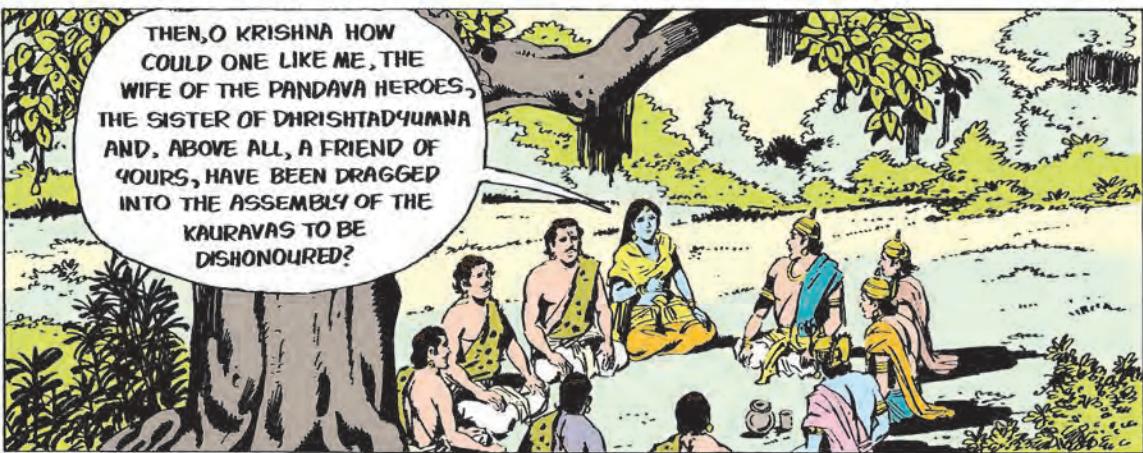


"TO THIS DRAUPADI ADDED -

IMMANENT LORD! IN YOU EVERYTHING IS ESTABLISHED.

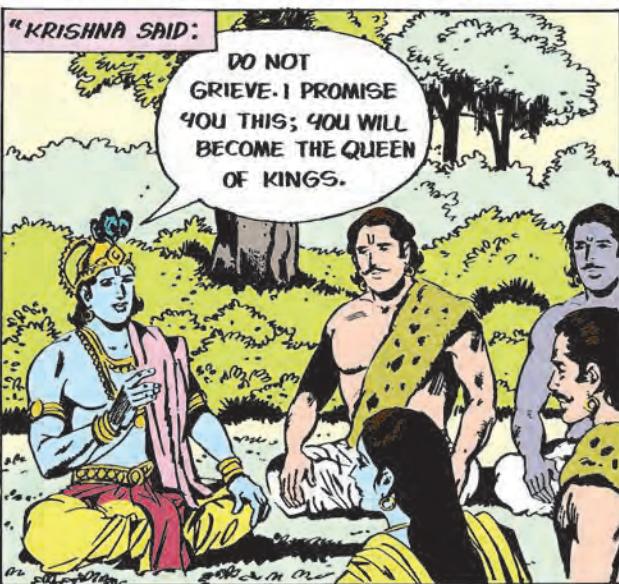


THEN, O KRISHNA HOW COULD ONE LIKE ME, THE WIFE OF THE PANDAVA HEROES, THE SISTER OF DHRISHTADYUMNA AND, ABOVE ALL, A FRIEND OF YOURS, HAVE BEEN DRAGGED INTO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KAURAVAS TO BE DISHONoured?



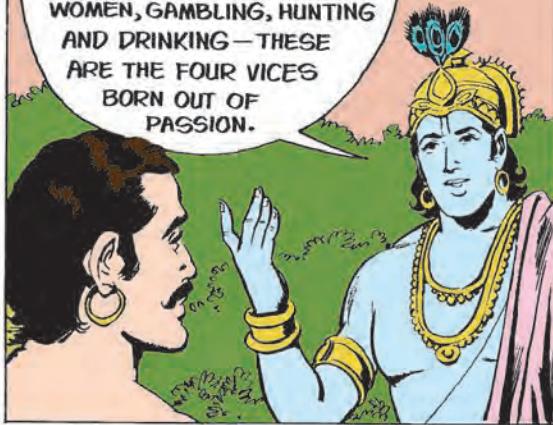
"KRISHNA SAID:

DO NOT Grieve. I PROMISE YOU THIS; YOU WILL BECOME THE QUEEN OF KINGS.

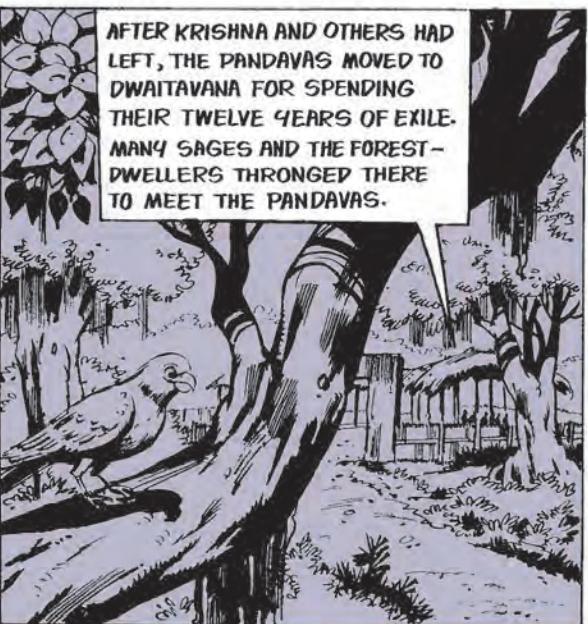


"TURNING TO YUDHISHTHIRA, KRISHNA SAID:

IF I HAD BEEN PRESENT IN DWARAKA THEN, I WOULD HAVE STOPPED THE GAME OF DICE BEING PLAYED. WOMEN, GAMBLING, HUNTING AND DRINKING—THESE ARE THE FOUR VICES BORN OUT OF PASSION.

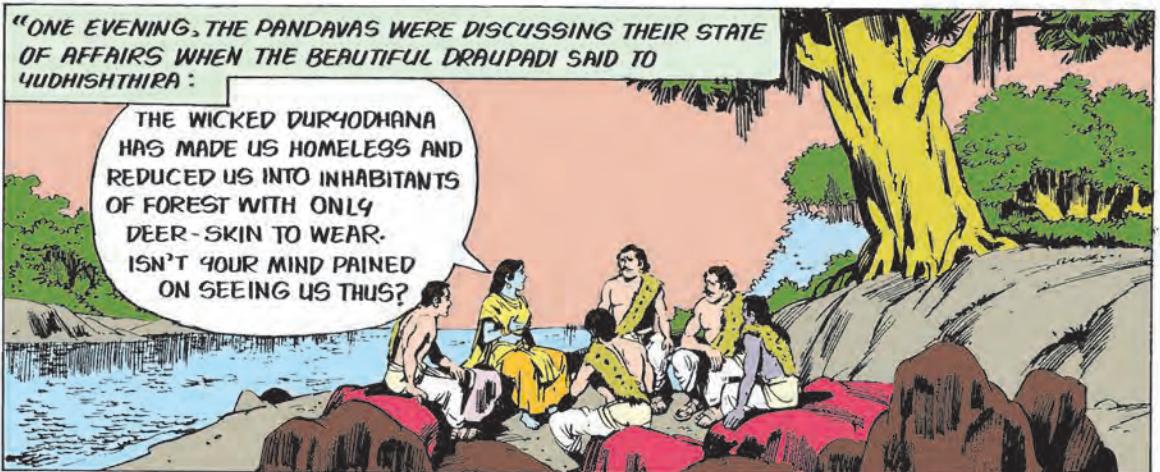


AFTER KRISHNA AND OTHERS HAD LEFT, THE PANDAVAS MOVED TO DWAITAVANA FOR SPENDING THEIR TWELVE YEARS OF EXILE. MANY SAGES AND THE FOREST-DWELLERS THRONDED THERE TO MEET THE PANDAVAS.

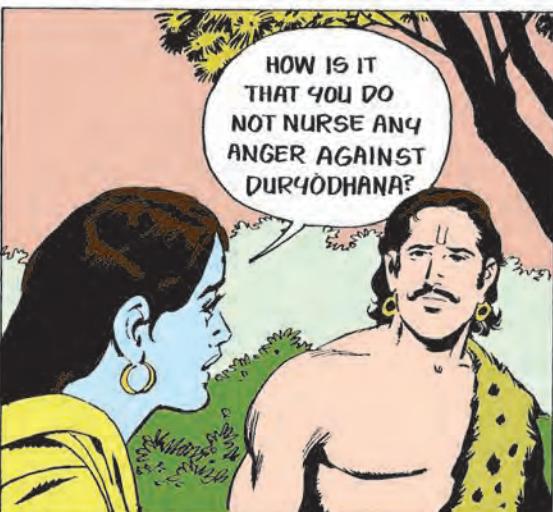


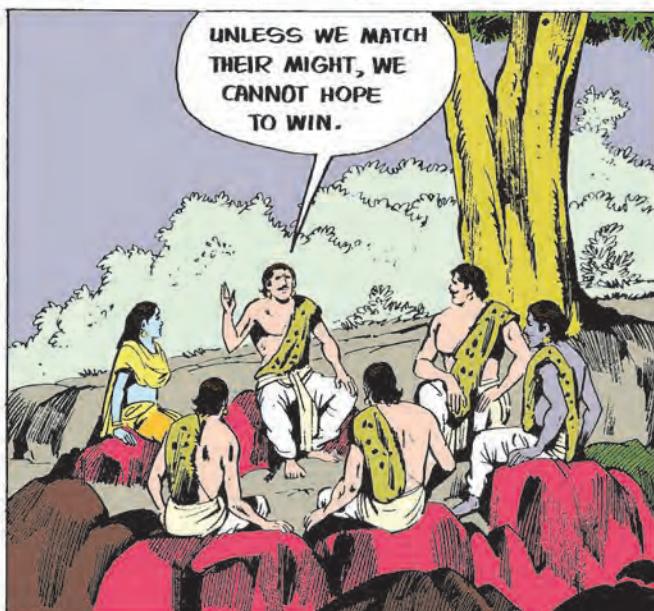
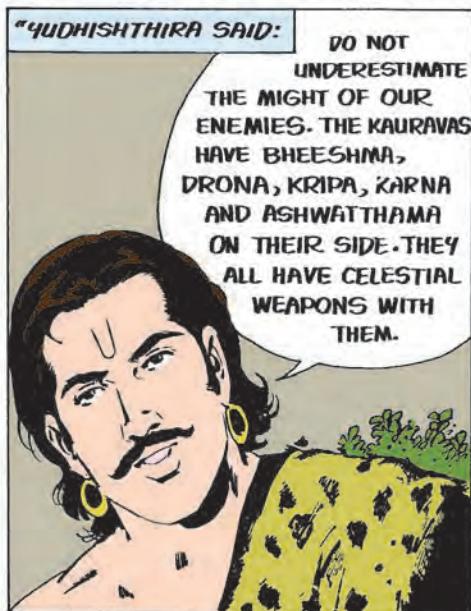
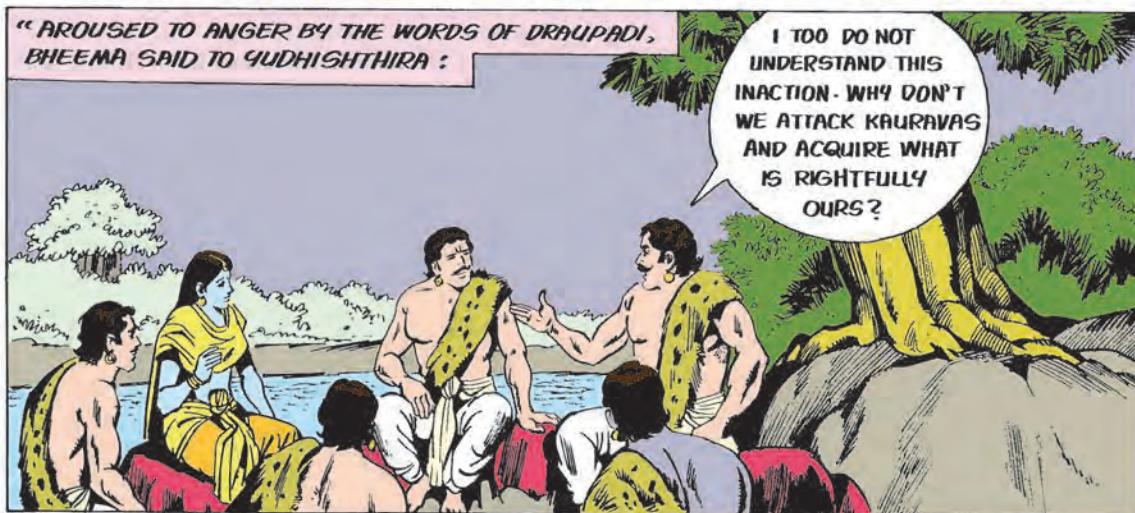
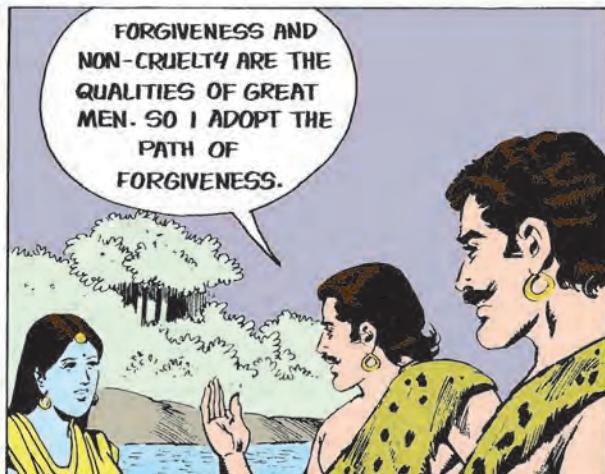
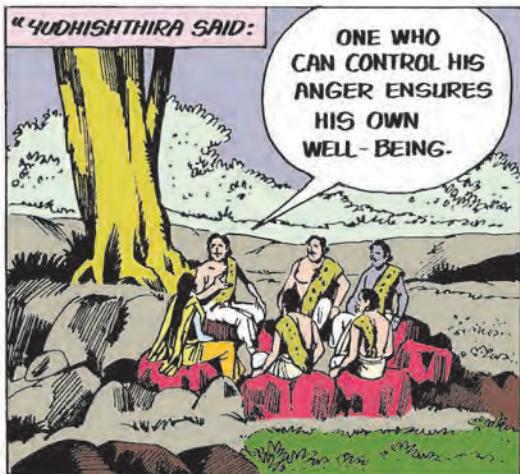
"ONE EVENING, THE PANDAVAS WERE DISCUSSING THEIR STATE OF AFFAIRS WHEN THE BEAUTIFUL DRAUPADI SAID TO YUDHISHTHIRA :

THE WICKED DURYODHANA HAS MADE US HOMELESS AND REDUCED US INTO INHABITANTS OF FOREST WITH ONLY DEER-SKIN TO WEAR. ISN'T YOUR MIND PAINED ON SEEING US THUS?



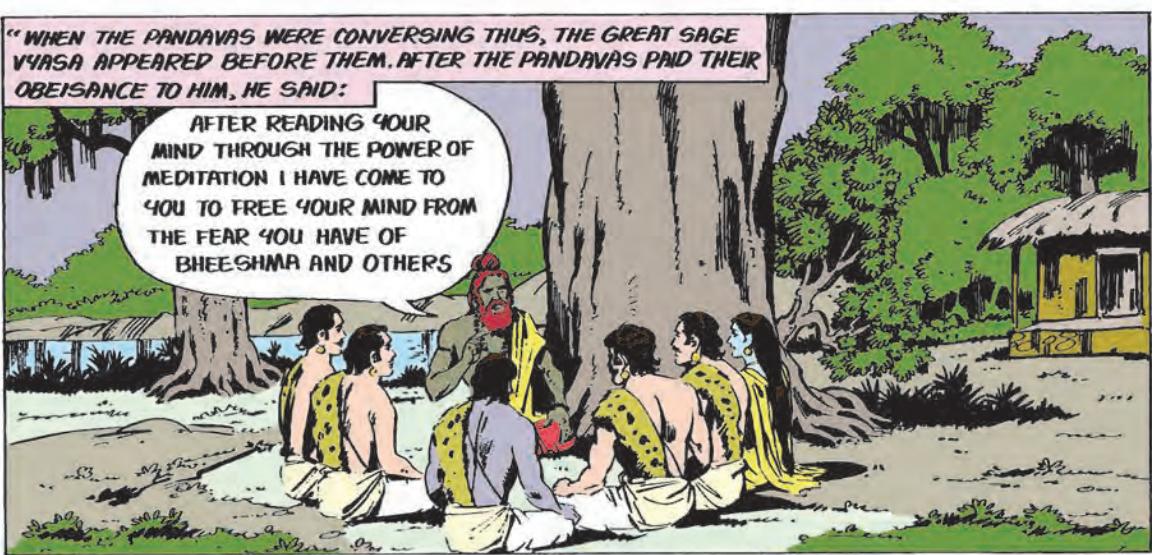
IT IS CONTRARY TO THE NATURE OF A KSHATRIYA.





"WHEN THE PANDAVAS WERE CONVERSING THUS, THE GREAT SAGE VYASA APPEARED BEFORE THEM. AFTER THE PANDAVAS PAID THEIR OBEISANCE TO HIM, HE SAID:

AFTER READING YOUR MIND THROUGH THE POWER OF MEDITATION I HAVE COME TO YOU TO FREE YOUR MIND FROM THE FEAR YOU HAVE OF BHEESHMA AND OTHERS



"HE THEN CALLED YUDHISHTHIRA ASIDE AND SAID:

TAKE THIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE NAMED PRATISMRTI, OBTAINING WHICH THE MIGHTY ARJUNA WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS.

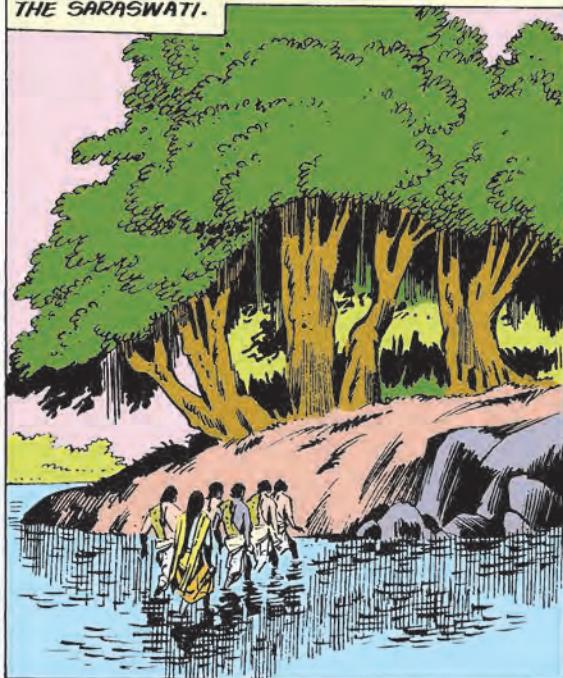


LET ARJUNA HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE AND WORSHIP SHIVA AND INDRA FOR WEAPONS THAT WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO THINK OF LIVING IN SOME FOREST OTHER THAN THIS.



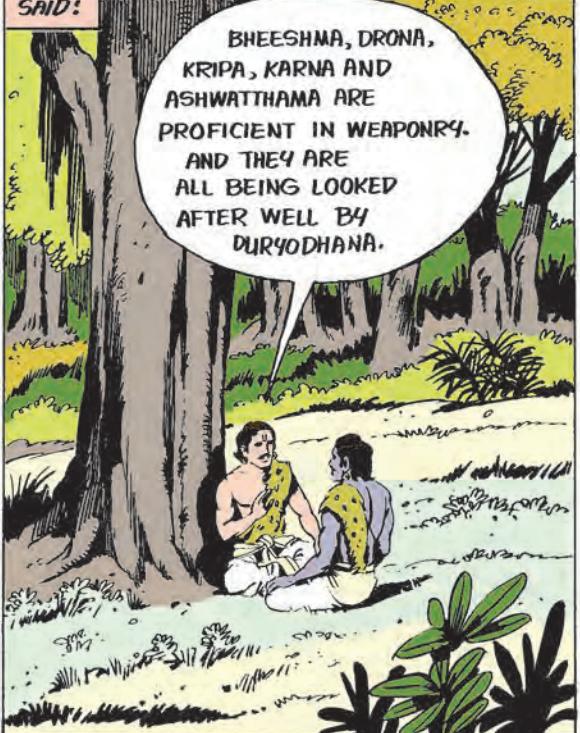
THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

"AFTER IMPARTING THUS THE YOGA VIDYA, VYASA DISAPPEARED. THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA WENT FROM THE DVAITA TO THE FOREST KNOWN AS KAMYAKA ON THE BANKS OF THE SARASWATI.

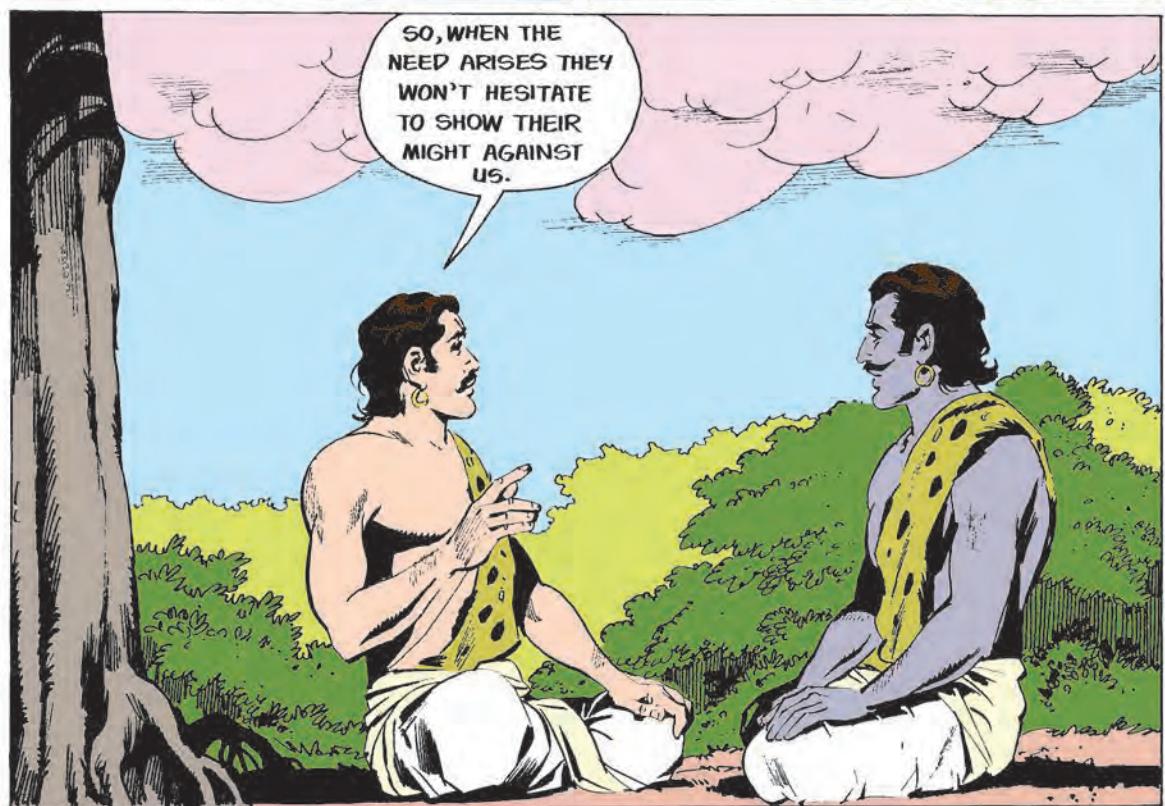


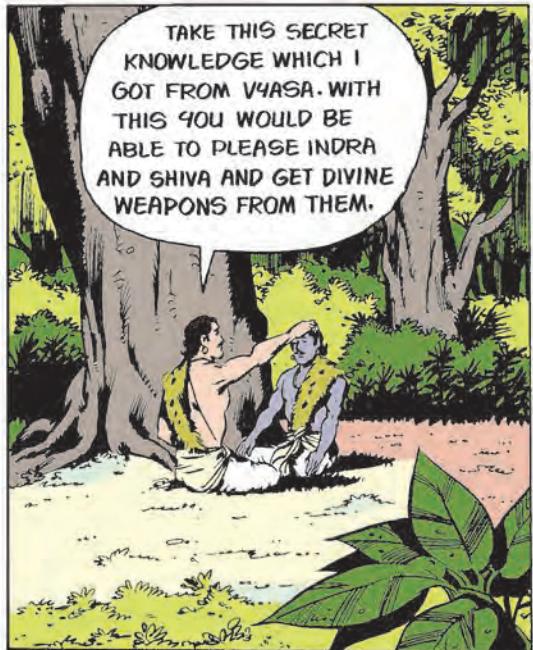
"THEN, REMEMBERING THE SAGE'S ADVICE, YUDHISHTHIRA CALLED ARJUNA TO HIS SIDE AND SAID:

BHEESHMA, DRONA,
Kripa, KARNA AND
ASHWATTHAMA ARE
PROFICIENT IN WEAPONRY.
AND THEY ARE
ALL BEING LOOKED
AFTER WELL BY
DURYODHANA.

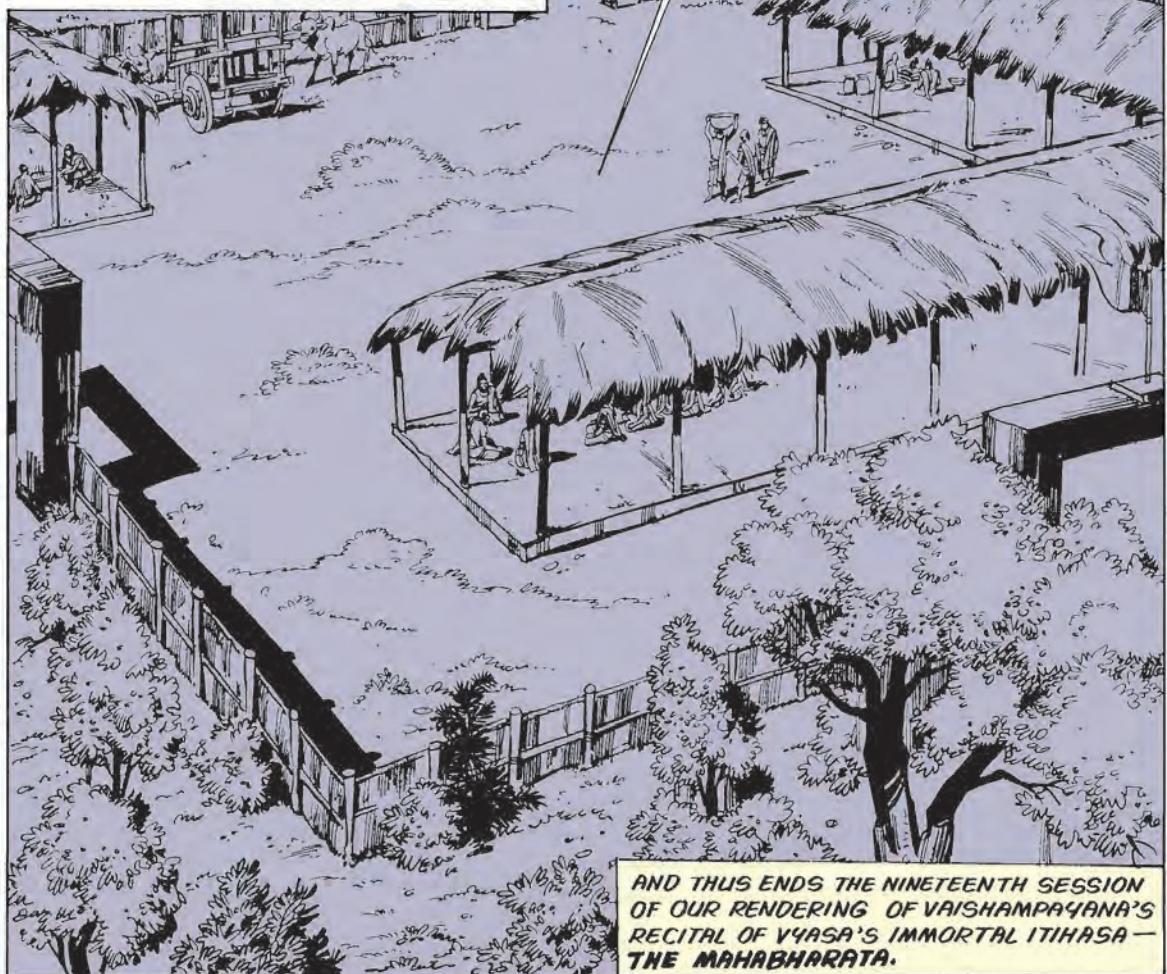


SO, WHEN THE
NEED ARISES THEY
WON'T HESITATE
TO SHOW THEIR
MIGHT AGAINST
US.





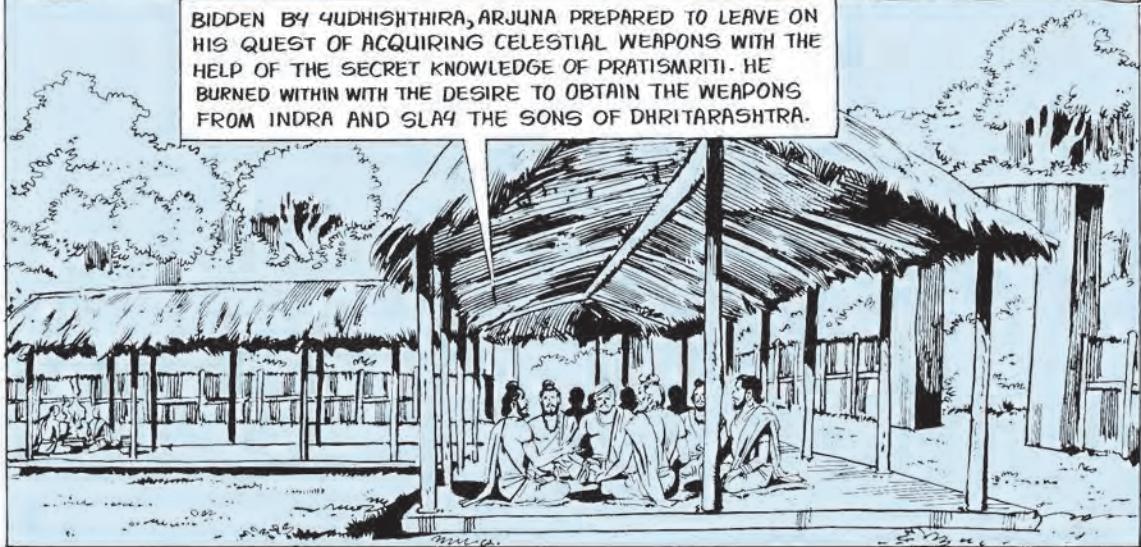
SAYING THIS, YUDHISHTHIRA GAVE TO ARJUNA THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE OF PRATISMRTI AND ARJUNA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF HIS MISSION.



Mahabharata-20

ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS

BIDDEN BY YUDHISHTHIRA, ARJUNA PREPARED TO LEAVE ON HIS QUEST OF ACQUIRING CELESTIAL WEAPONS WITH THE HELP OF THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE OF PRATISMIRITI. HE BURNED WITHIN WITH THE DESIRE TO OBTAIN THE WEAPONS FROM INDRA AND SLAY THE SONS OF DHRITARASHTRA.

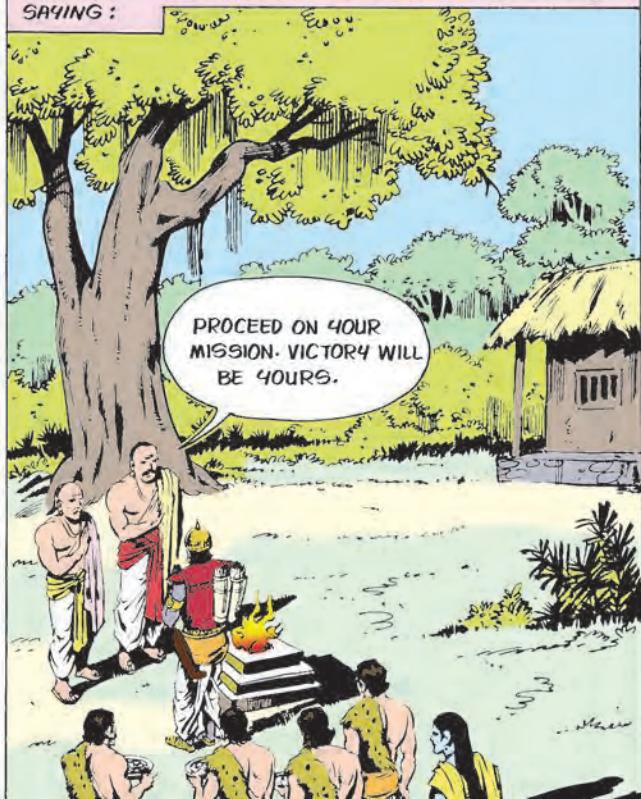


"HE EQUIPPED HIMSELF WITH THE GANDEEVA*, TWO INEXHAUSTIBLE QUIVERS, ARMOURS, FINGERGUARDS AND A LEATHER ARM-BAND.



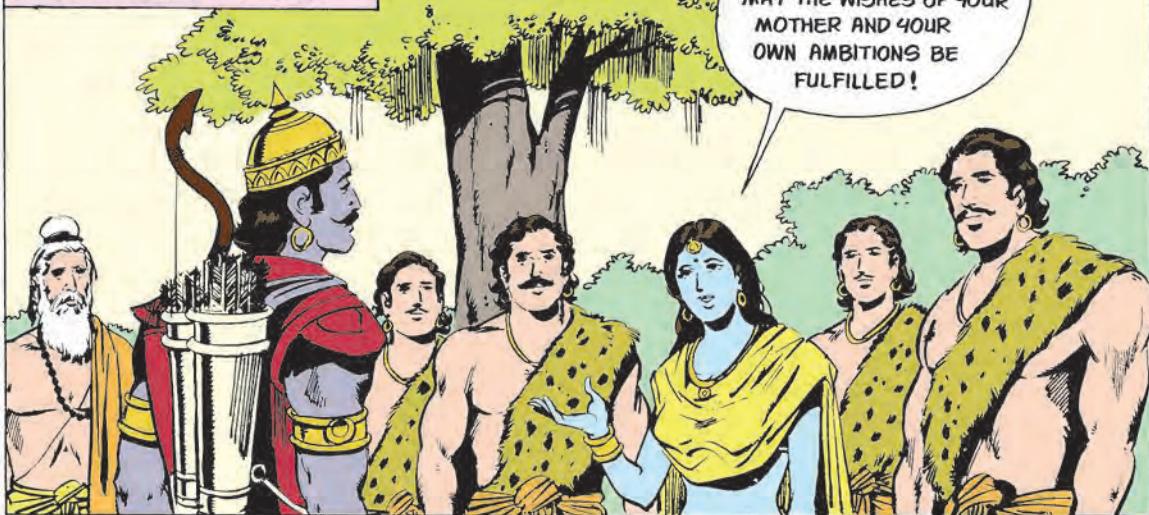
* NAME OF ARJUNA'S BOW.

"HE THEN OFFERED OBLATION TO THE FIRE GOD AND GOLD COINS TO THE BRAHMANS. THE LATTER BLESSED HIM, SAYING :

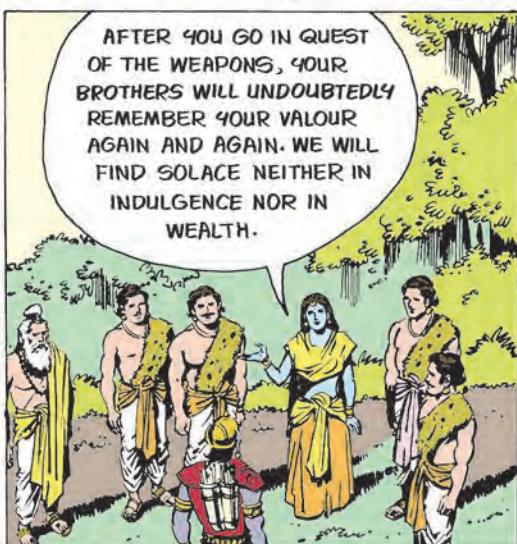


"SEEING ARJUNA, IN HIS WAR-LIKE ATTIRE, TAKING LEAVE OF OTHERS, DRAUPADI SAID:

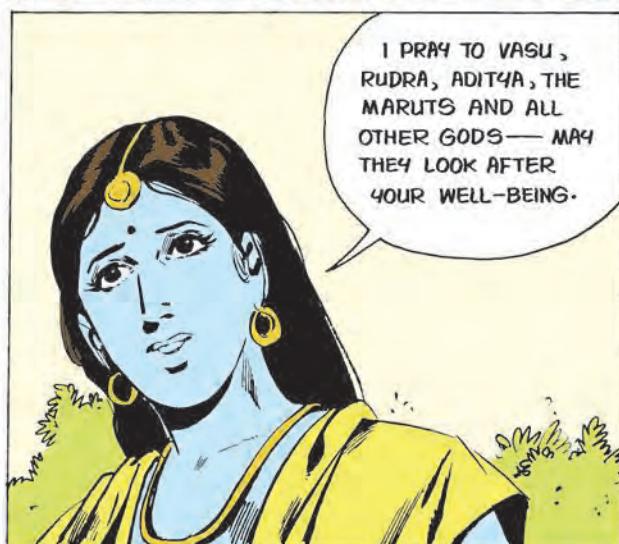
O MIGHTY DHANANJAYA!*
MAY THE WISHES OF YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR OWN AMBITIONS BE FULFILLED!



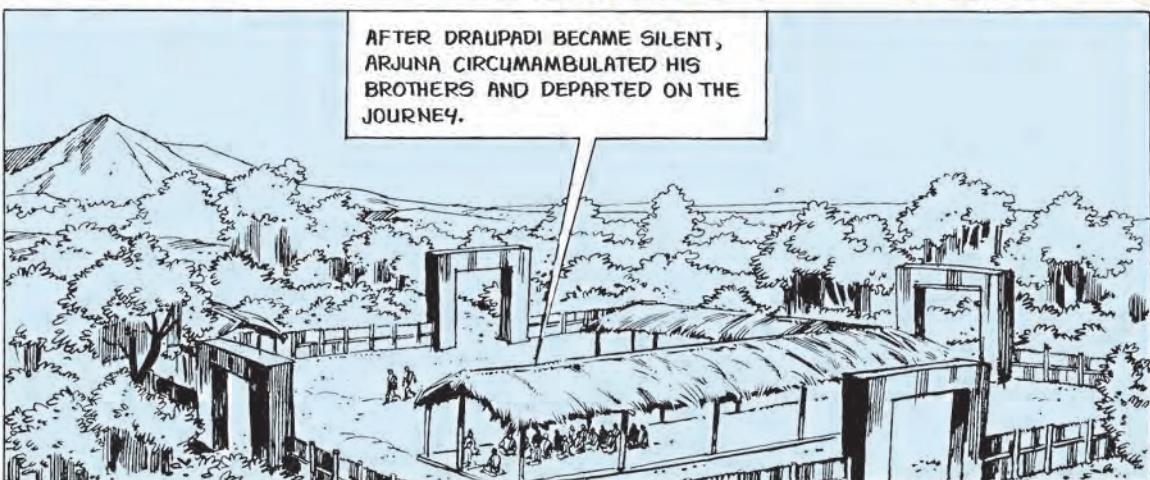
AFTER YOU GO IN QUEST OF THE WEAPONS, YOUR BROTHERS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REMEMBER YOUR VALOUR AGAIN AND AGAIN. WE WILL FIND SOLACE NEITHER IN INDULGENCE NOR IN WEALTH.



I PRAY TO VASU, RUDRA, ADITYA, THE MARUTS AND ALL OTHER GODS—MAY THEY LOOK AFTER YOUR WELL-BEING.

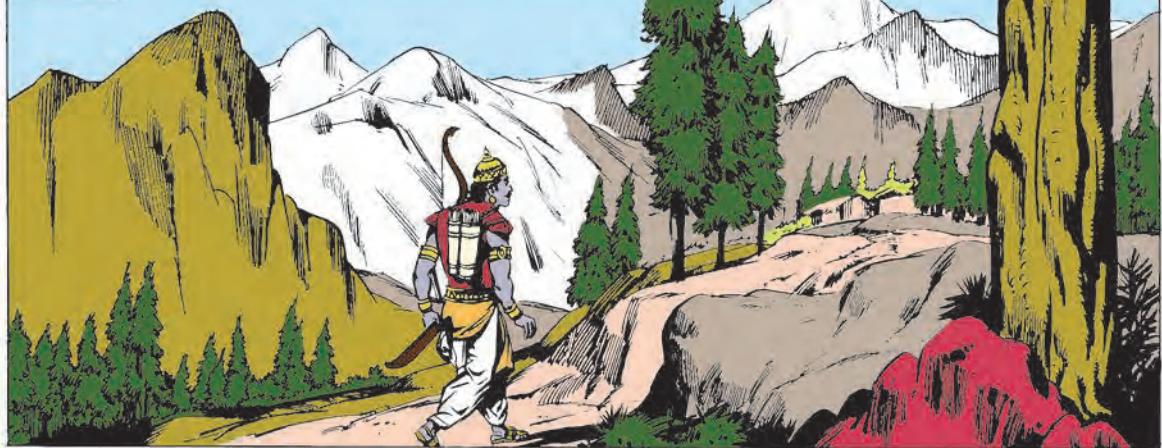


AFTER DRAUPADI BECAME SILENT, ARJUNA CIRCUMAMBULATED HIS BROTHERS AND DEPARTED ON THE JOURNEY.

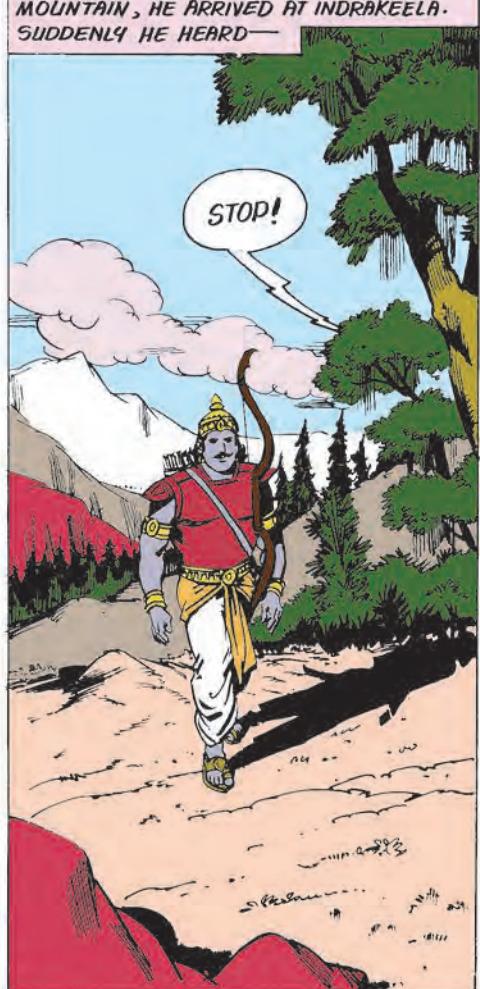


* CONQUEROR OF WEALTH (ARJUNA).

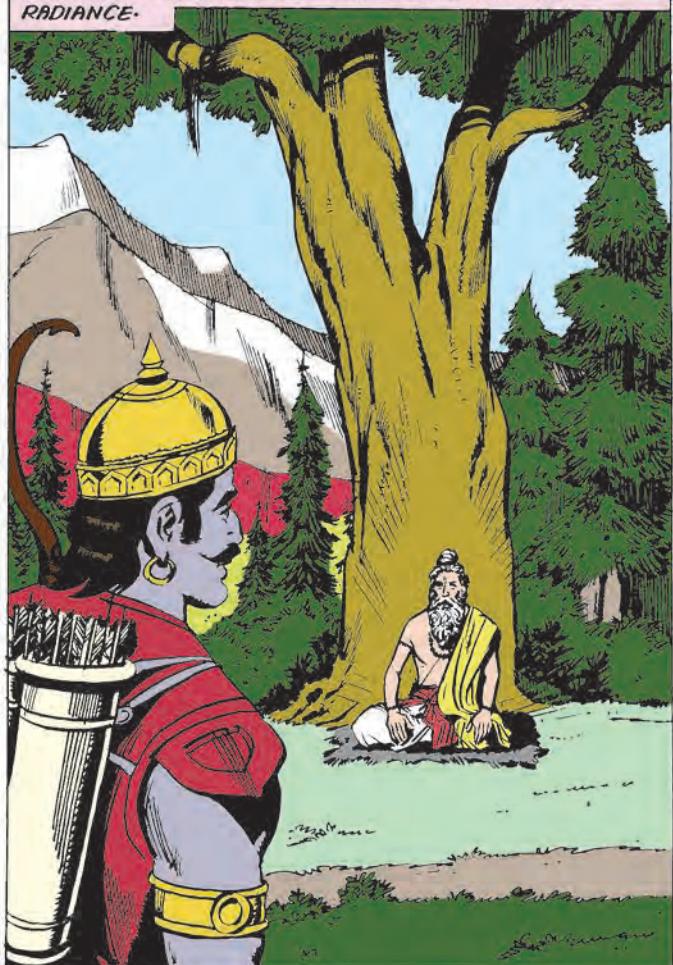
"EQUIPPED WITH THE YOGIC KNOWLEDGE OF PRATISMRTI, ARJUNA JOURNEYED AS SPEEDILY AS THE MIND AND REACHED IN A DAY'S TIME THE HOLY HIMALAYAS, THE ABODE OF THE GODS.



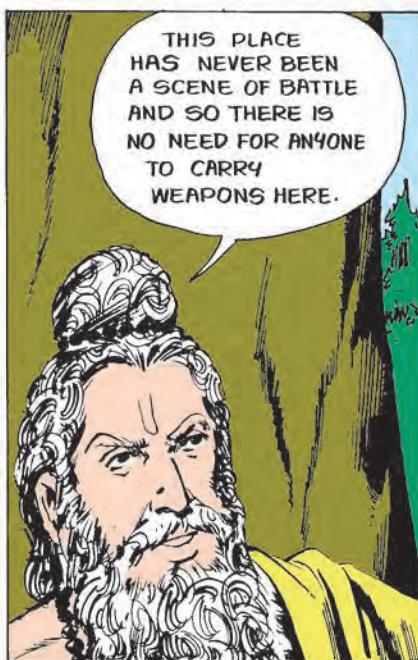
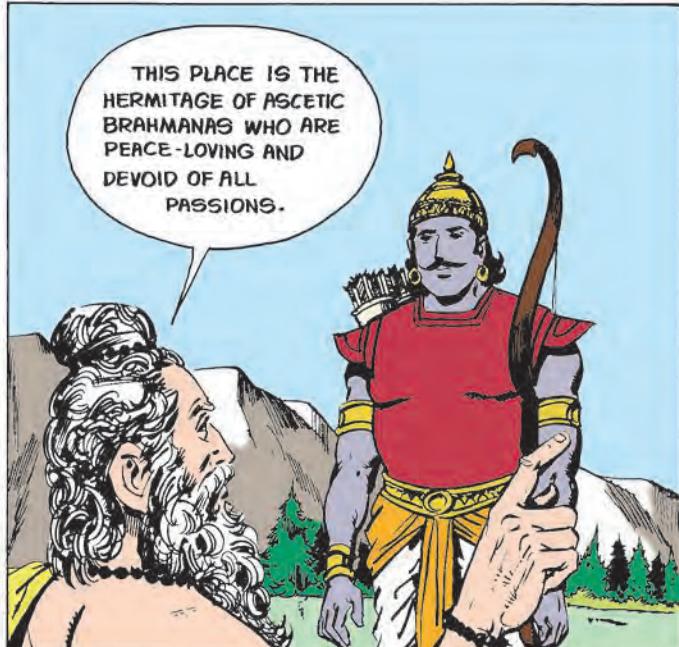
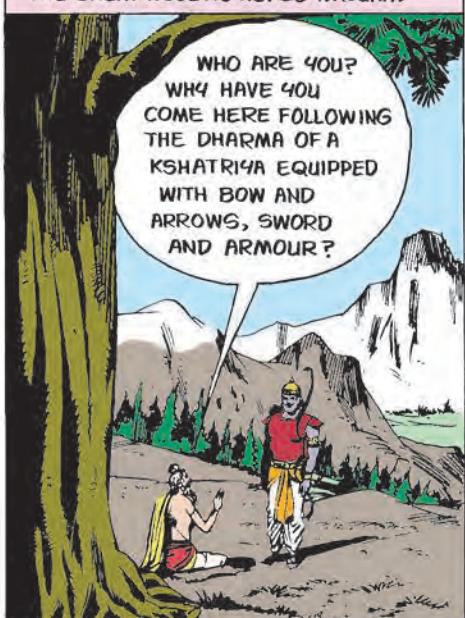
"WALKING INCESSANTLY OVER THE HIMALAYAS AND THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAIN, HE ARRIVED AT INDRAKEELA. SUDDENLY HE HEARD—



"THE PANDAVA LOOKED AROUND AND SAW AN ASCETIC WITH MATTED HAIR SITTING UNDER A TREE. HIS THIN, TAWNY-COLOURED BODY WAS GLOWING WITH A HEAVENLY RADIANCE.



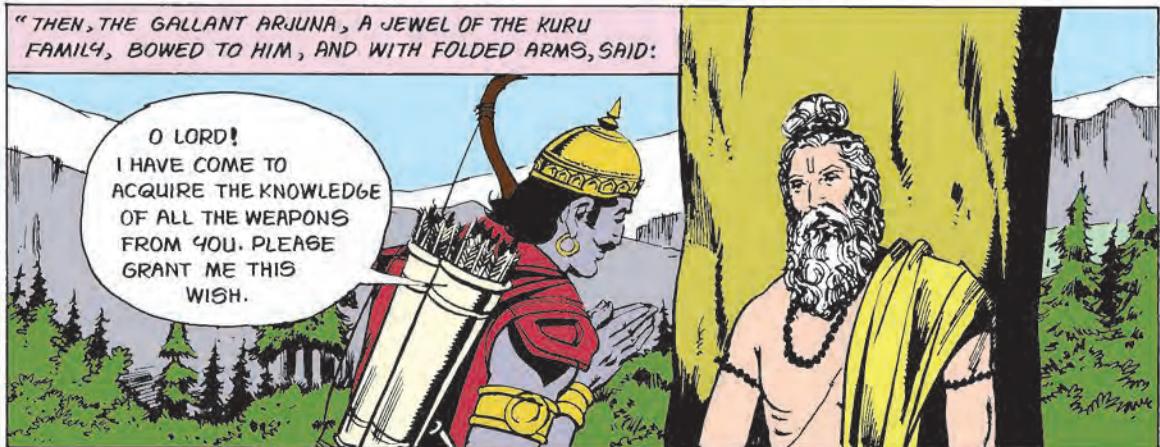
"THE GREAT ASCETIC ASKED ARJUNA:



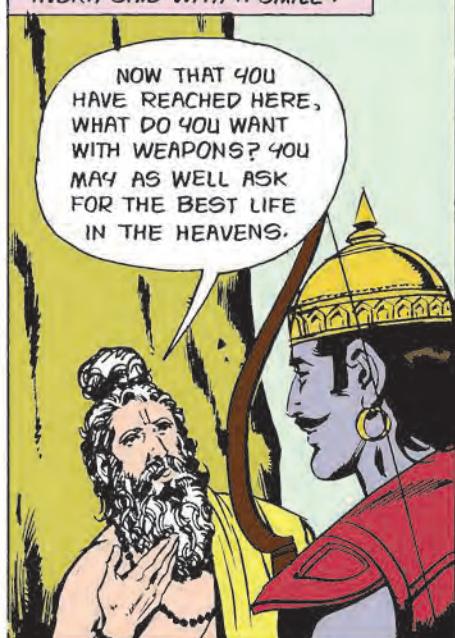
"PLEASED AND SATISFIED, THE BRAHMANA THEN SAID:



"THEN, THE GALLANT ARJUNA, A JEWEL OF THE KURU FAMILY, BOWED TO HIM, AND WITH FOLDED ARMS, SAID:

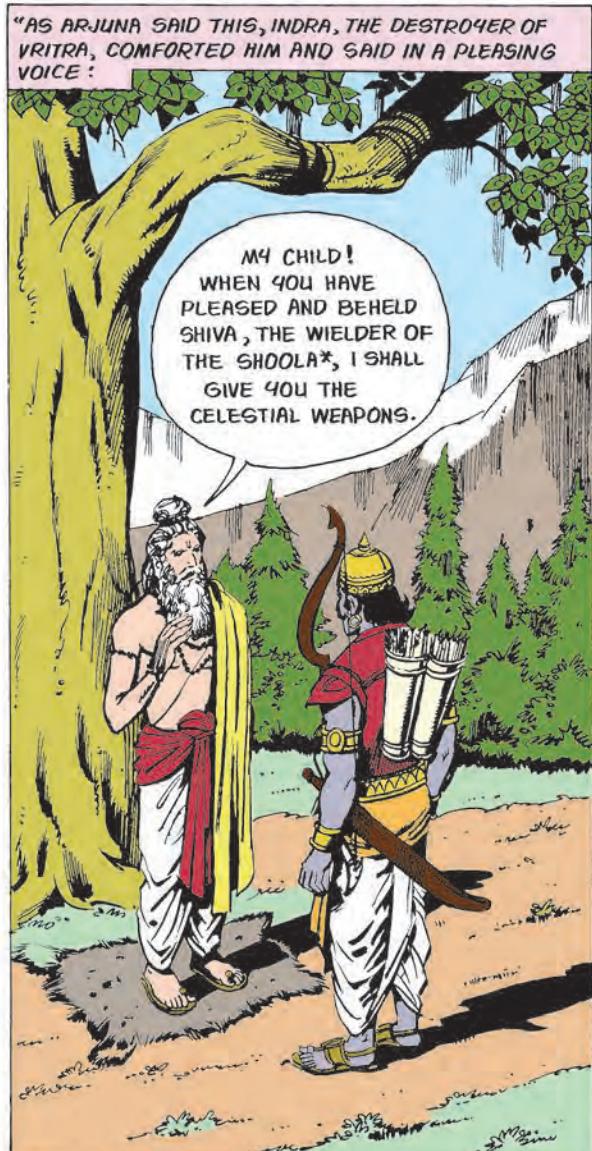
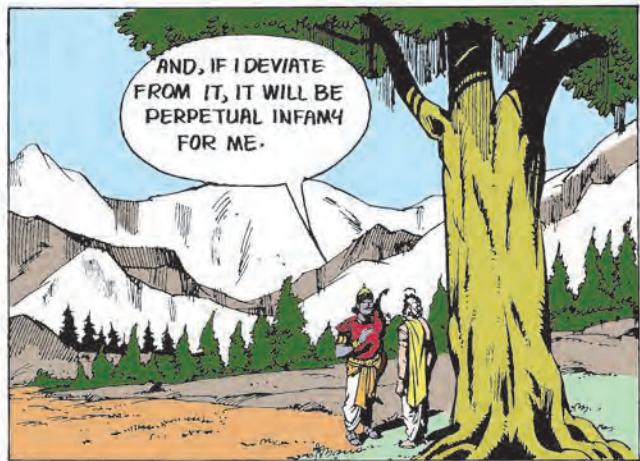
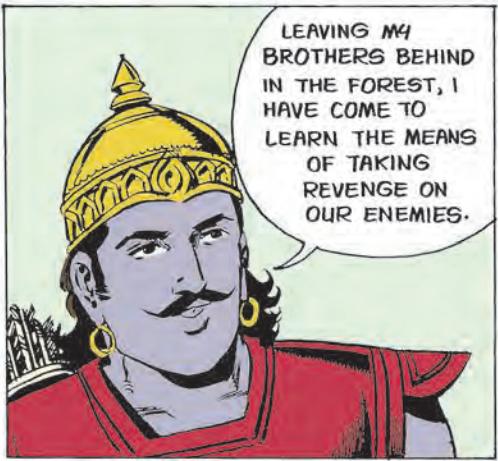


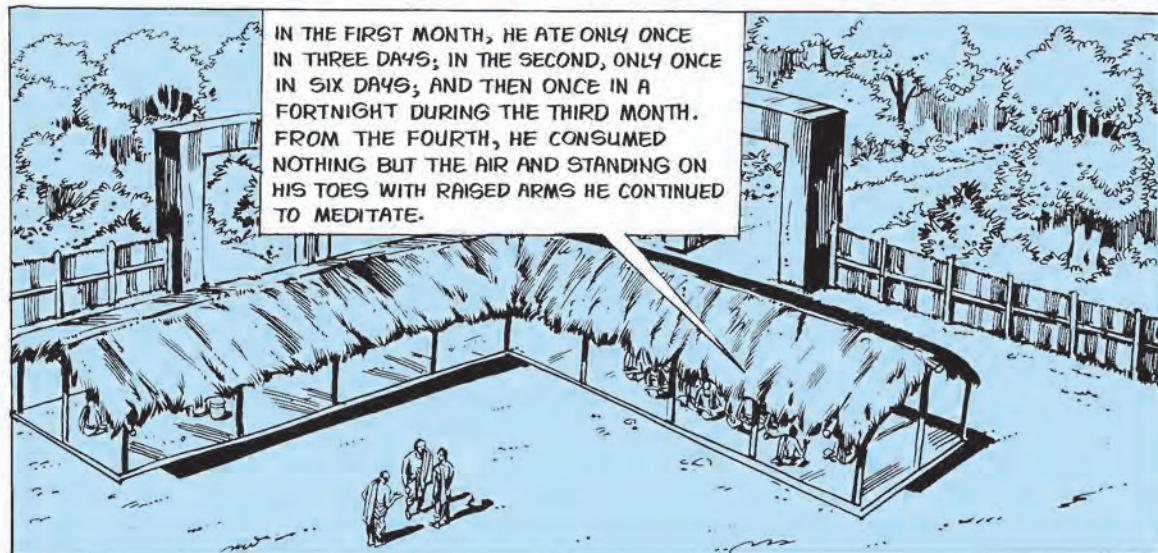
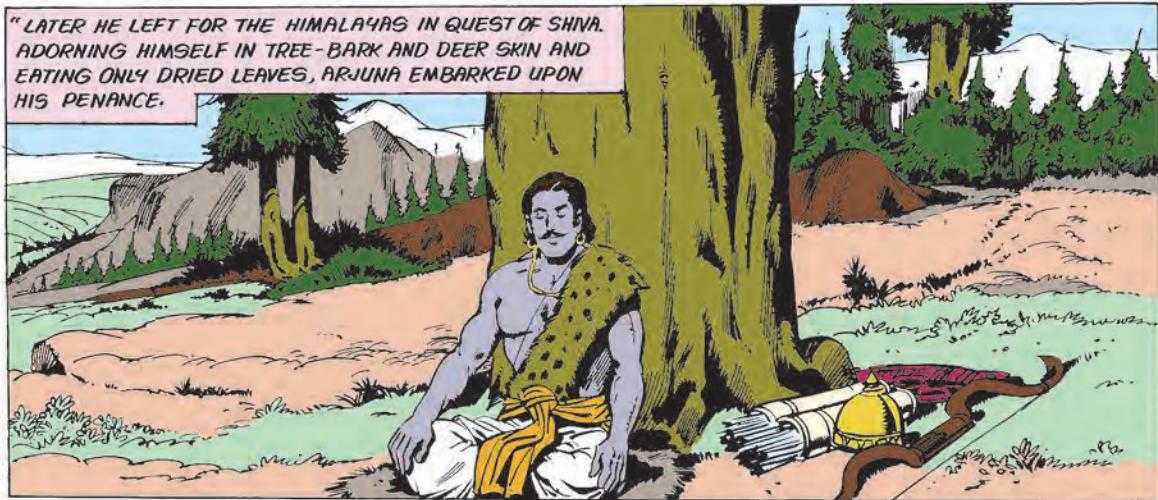
"INDRA SAID WITH A SMILE:



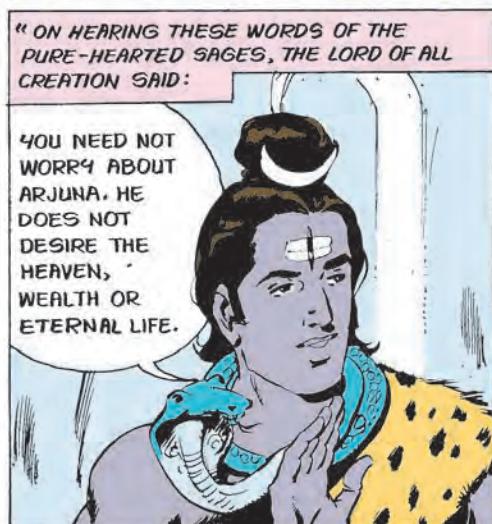
"DHANANJAYA REPLIED:





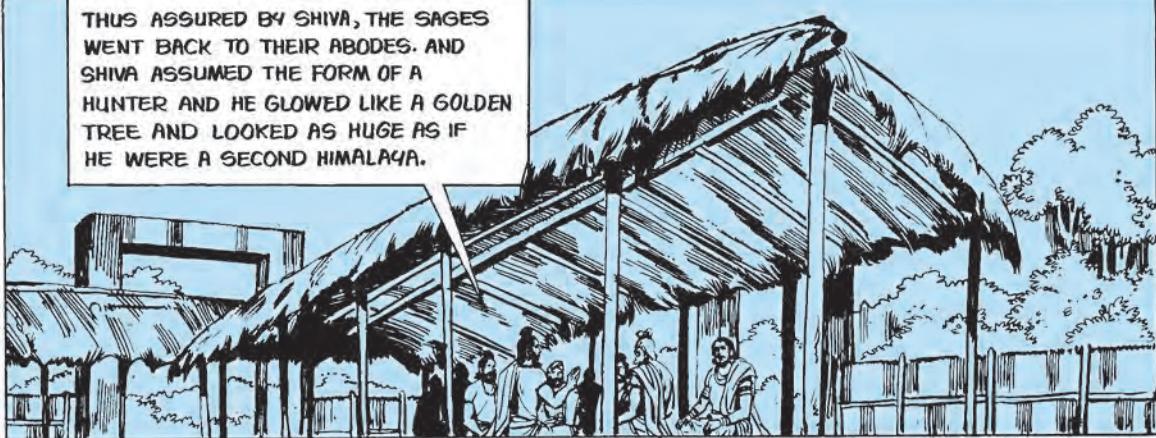


"ALL THE SAGES WHO WITNESSED HIS GREAT TAPAS* APPROACHED SHIVA TO TELL THE GOD ABOUT IT. BOWING TO HIM THEY SAID:

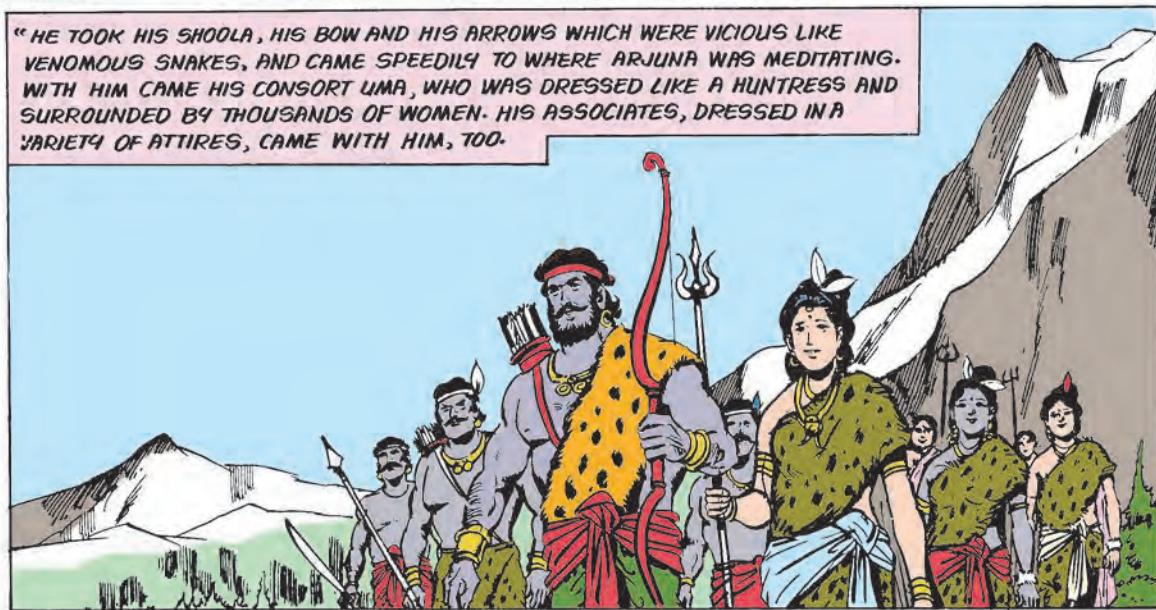


* SEVERE PENANCE.

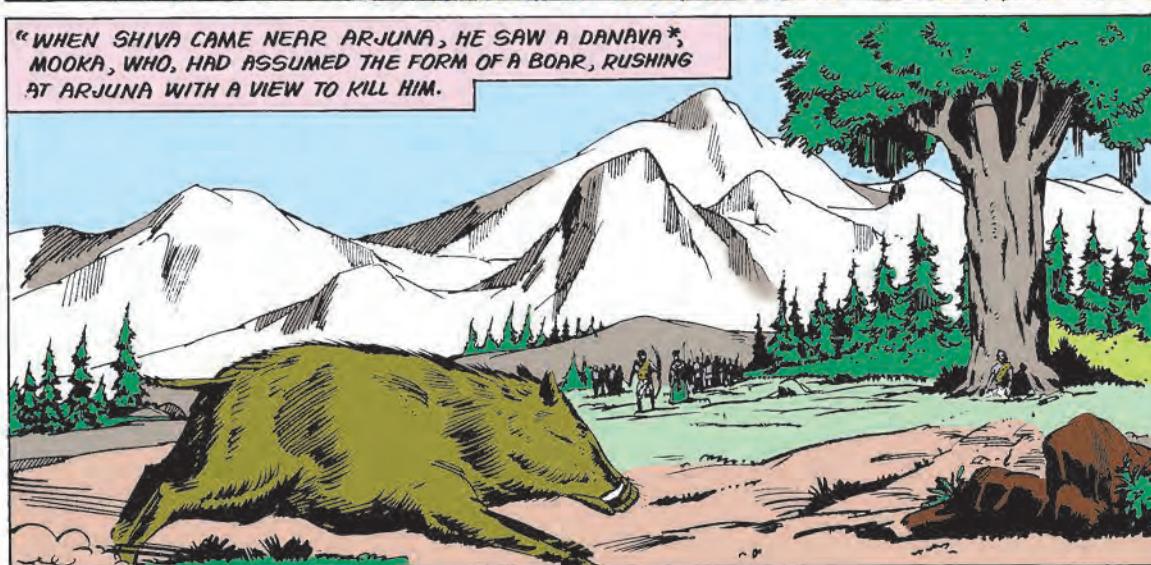
THUS ASSURED BY SHIVA, THE SAGES WENT BACK TO THEIR ABODES. AND SHIVA ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUNTER AND HE GLOWED LIKE A GOLDEN TREE AND LOOKED AS HUGE AS IF HE WERE A SECOND HIMALAYA.



"HE TOOK HIS SHOOLA, HIS BOW AND HIS ARROWS WHICH WERE VICTIOUS LIKE VENOMOUS SNAKES, AND CAME SPEEDILY TO WHERE ARJUNA WAS MEDITATING. WITH HIM CAME HIS CONSORT UMA, WHO WAS DRESSED LIKE A HUNTRESS AND SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS OF WOMEN. HIS ASSOCIATES, DRESSED IN A VARIETY OF ATTIRE, CAME WITH HIM, TOO.

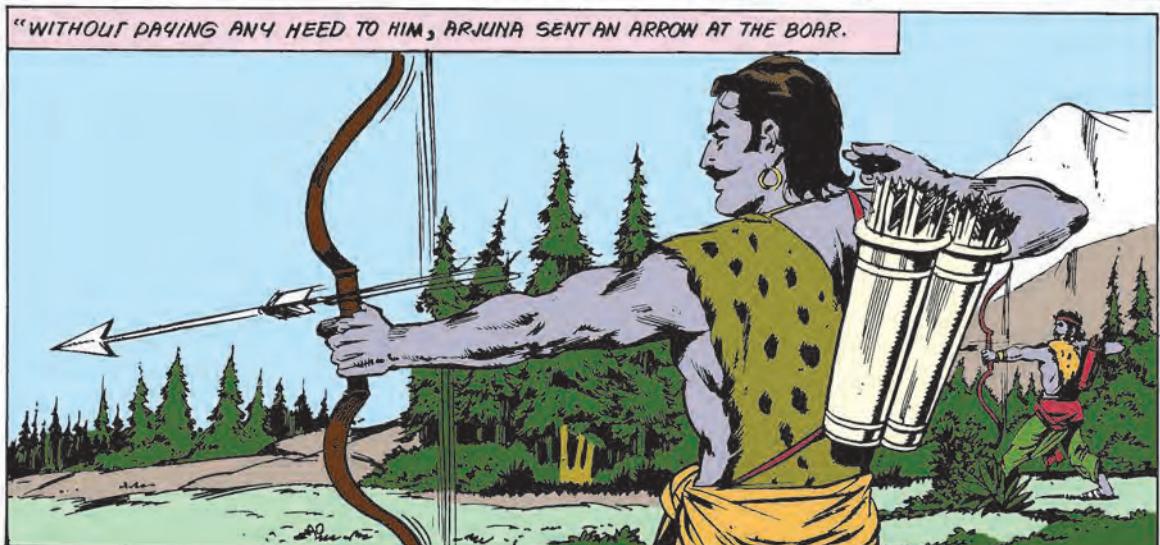
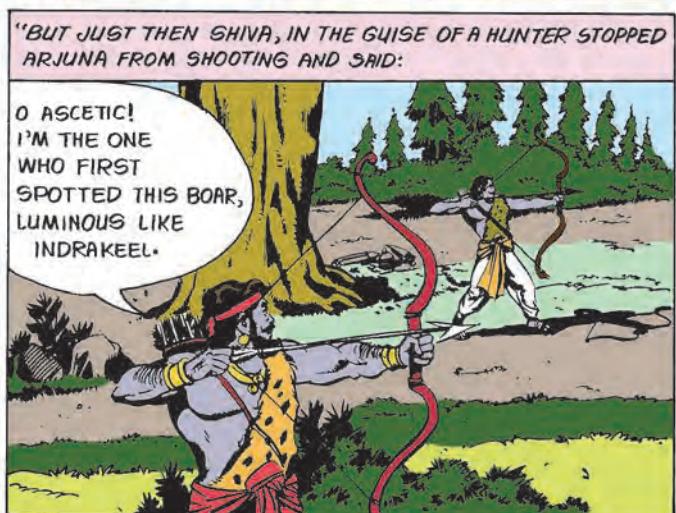
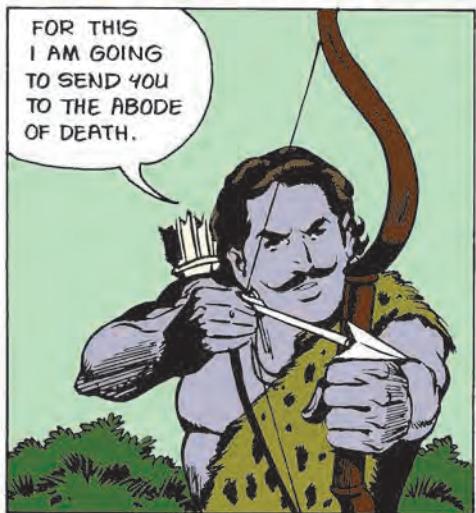


"WHEN SHIVA CAME NEAR ARJUNA, HE SAW A DANAVA*, MOOKA, WHO, HAD ASSUMED THE FORM OF A BOAR, RUSHING AT ARJUNA WITH A VIEW TO KILL HIM.



* ASURA

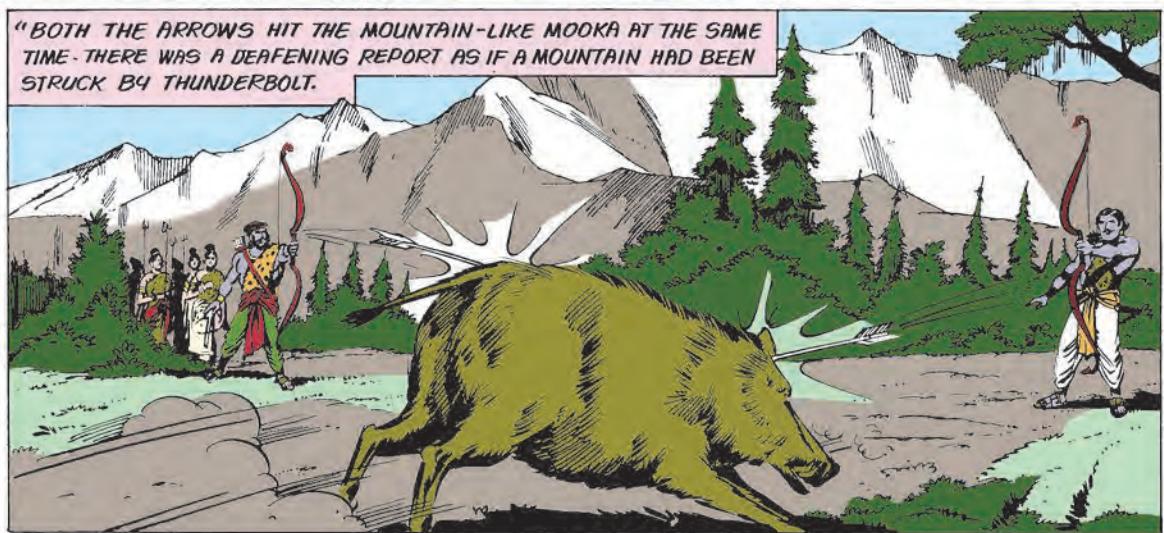
"AND SEEING THIS ARJUNA PICKED UP HIS GANDEEVA, MOUNTED ON IT HIS SNAKE-LIKE ARROW AND SAID TO THE BOAR:



"AT THE SAME MOMENT, THE HUNTER ALSO DESPATCHED HIS ARROW WHICH FLEW ACROSS LIKE A THUNDERBOLT.



"BOTH THE ARROWS HIT THE MOUNTAIN-LIKE MOOKA AT THE SAME TIME. THERE WAS A DEAFENING REPORT AS IF A MOUNTAIN HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THUNDERBOLT.



"LATER, PIERCED WITH MORE ARROWS DESPATCHED BY BOTH ARJUNA AND THE HUNTER, THE BOAR DIED. ASSUMING HIS ORIGINAL FORM OF A DANAVA.



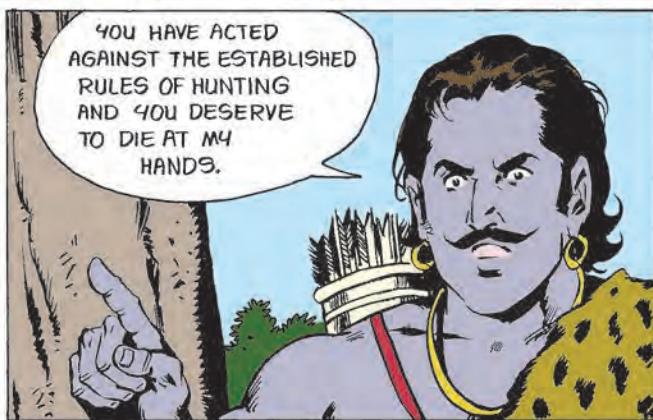
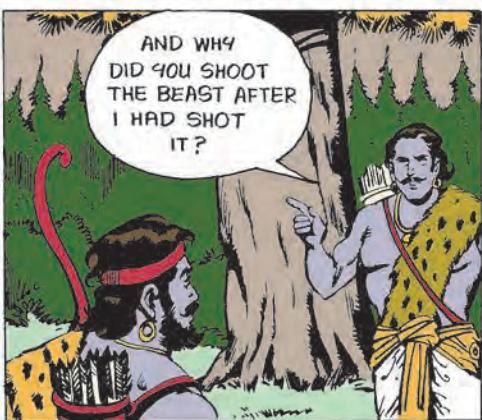
"THEN ARJUNA, LOOKING AT THE HUNTER, SAID WITH A SMILE:

WHO ARE YOU, ROAMING
WITH WOMEN IN THIS
DEADLY FOREST? ARE
YOU NOT
AFRAID?



AND WHY
DID YOU SHOOT
THE BEAST AFTER
I HAD SHOT
IT?

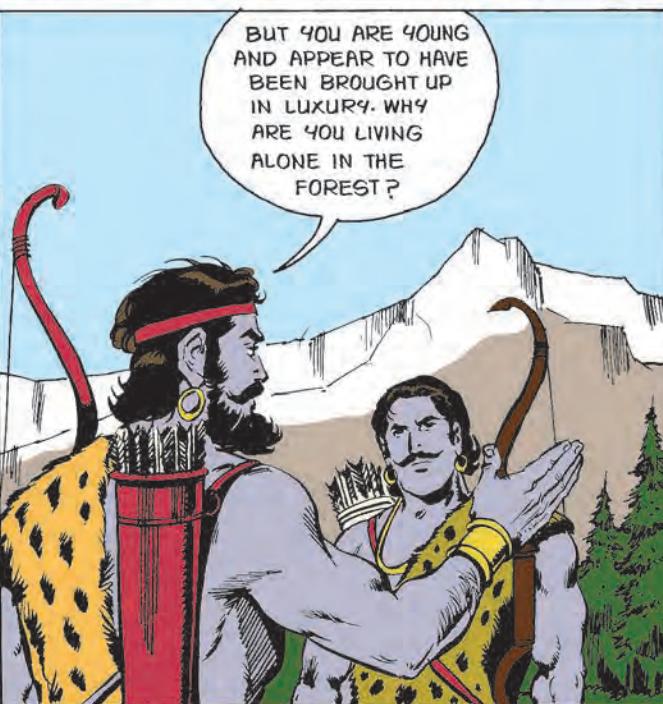
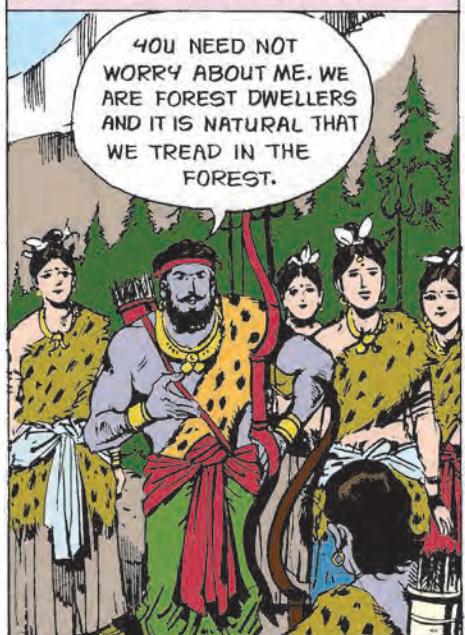
YOU HAVE ACTED
AGAINST THE ESTABLISHED
RULES OF HUNTING
AND YOU DESERVE
TO DIE AT MY
HANDS.



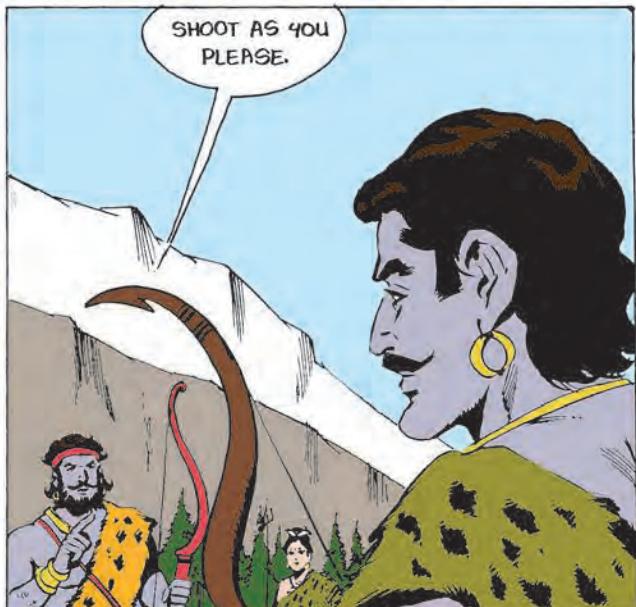
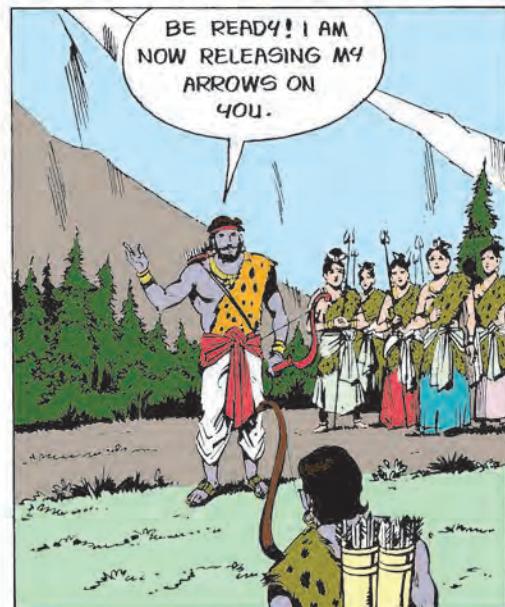
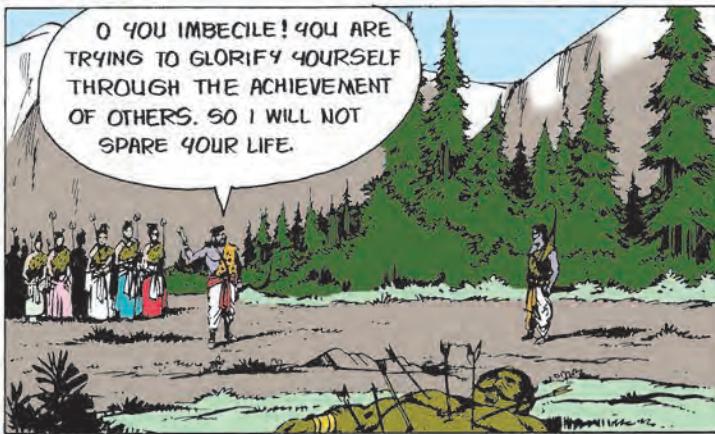
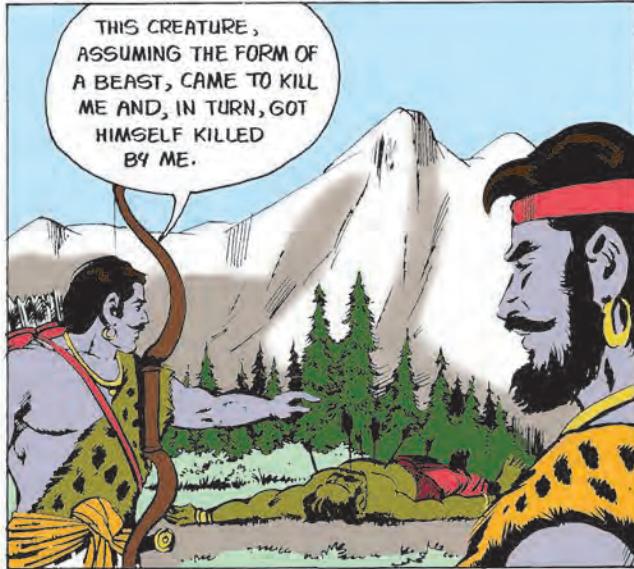
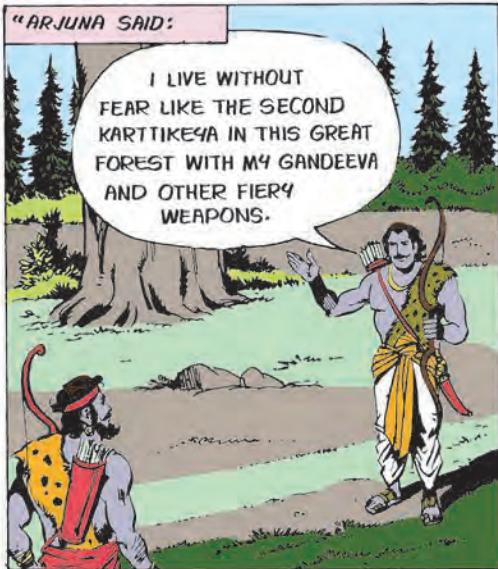
"HEARING THESE WORDS OF ARJUNA,
THE HUNTER LAUGHED AND SAID:

YOU NEED NOT
WORRY ABOUT ME. WE
ARE FOREST DWELLERS
AND IT IS NATURAL THAT
WE TREAD IN THE
FOREST.

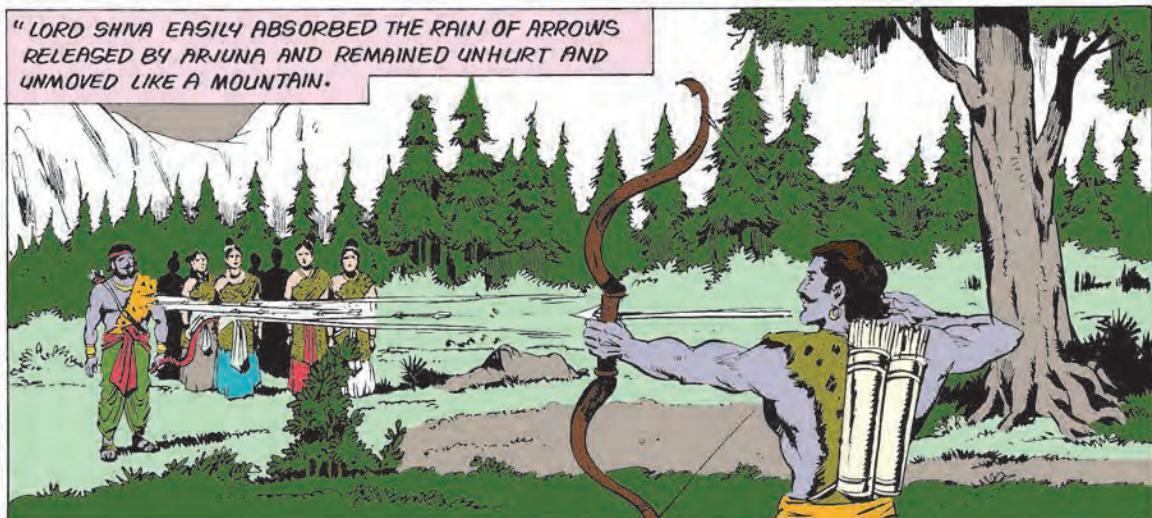
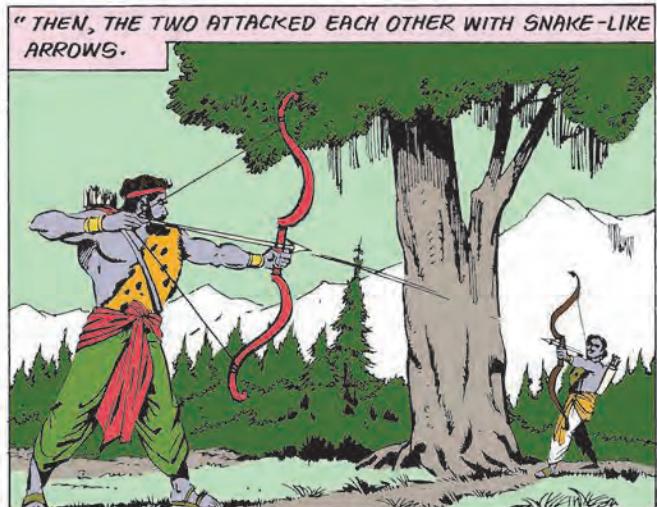
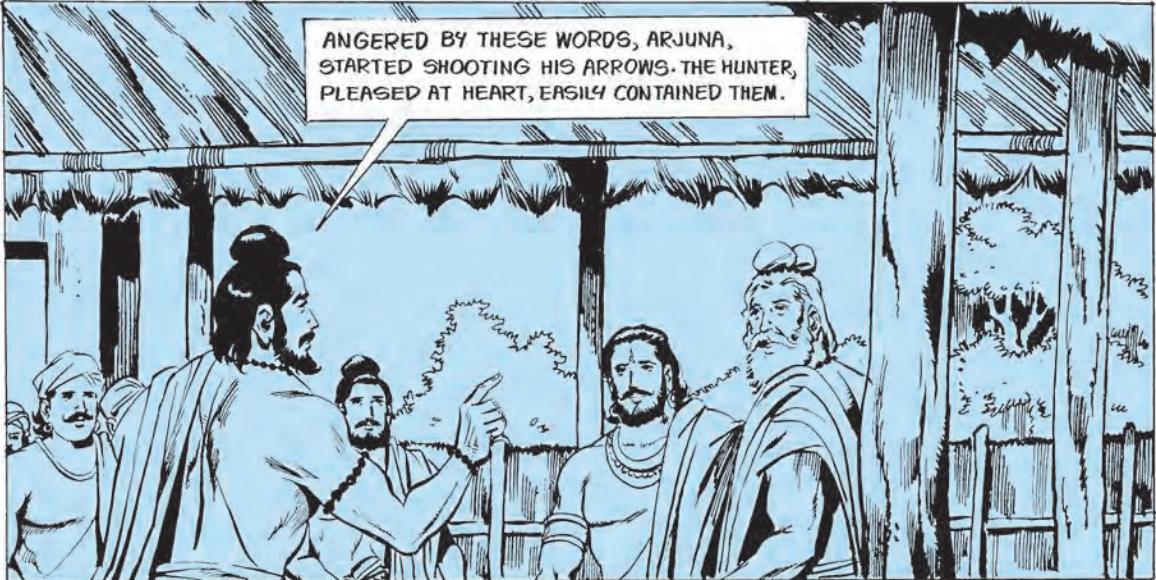
BUT YOU ARE YOUNG
AND APPEAR TO HAVE
BEEN BROUGHT UP
IN LUXURY. WHY
ARE YOU LIVING
ALONE IN THE
FOREST?



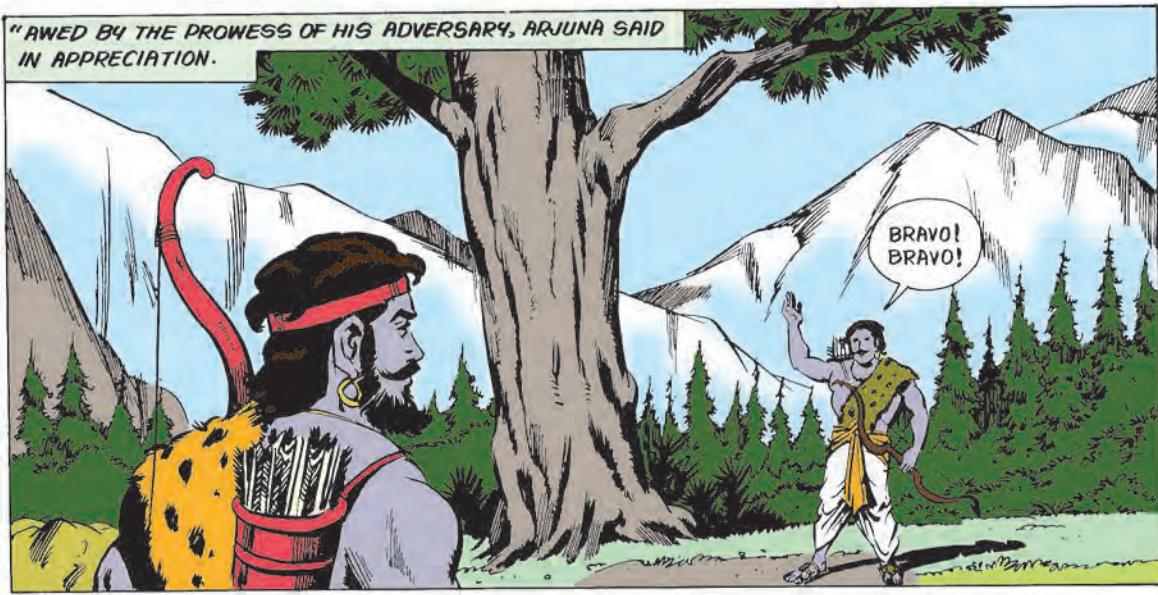
ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS



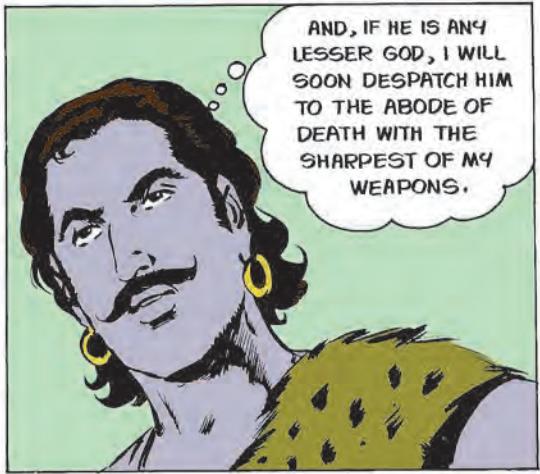
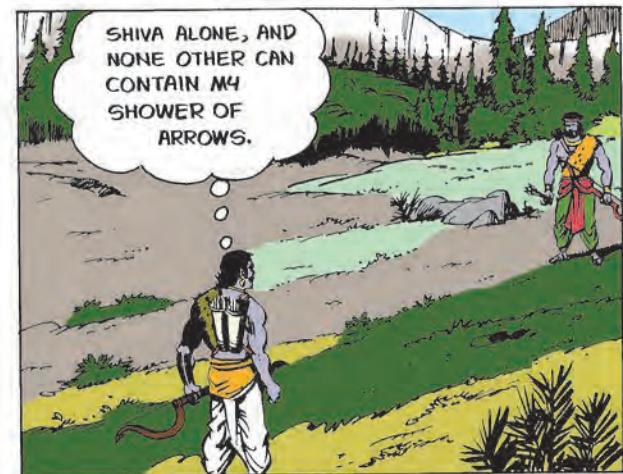
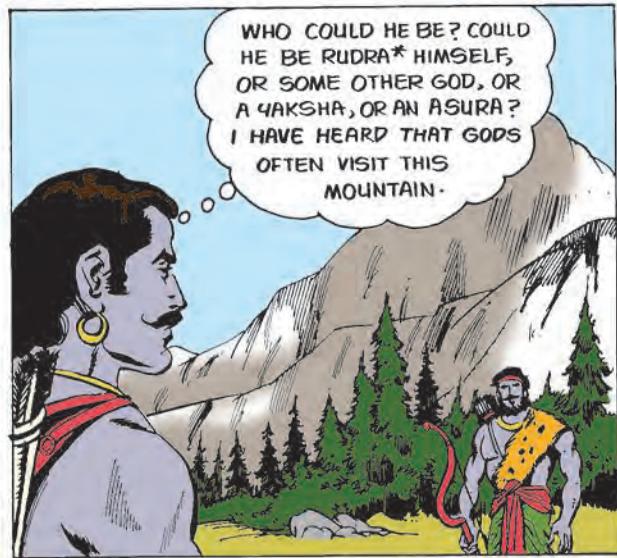
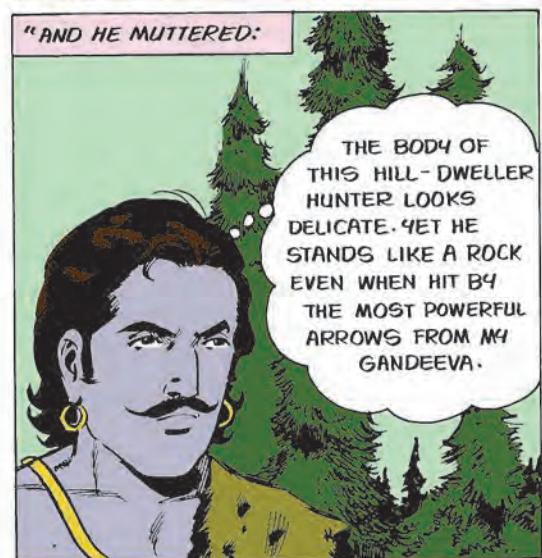
ANGERED BY THESE WORDS, ARJUNA, STARTED SHOOTING HIS ARROWS. THE HUNTER, PLEASED AT HEART, EASILY CONTAINED THEM.

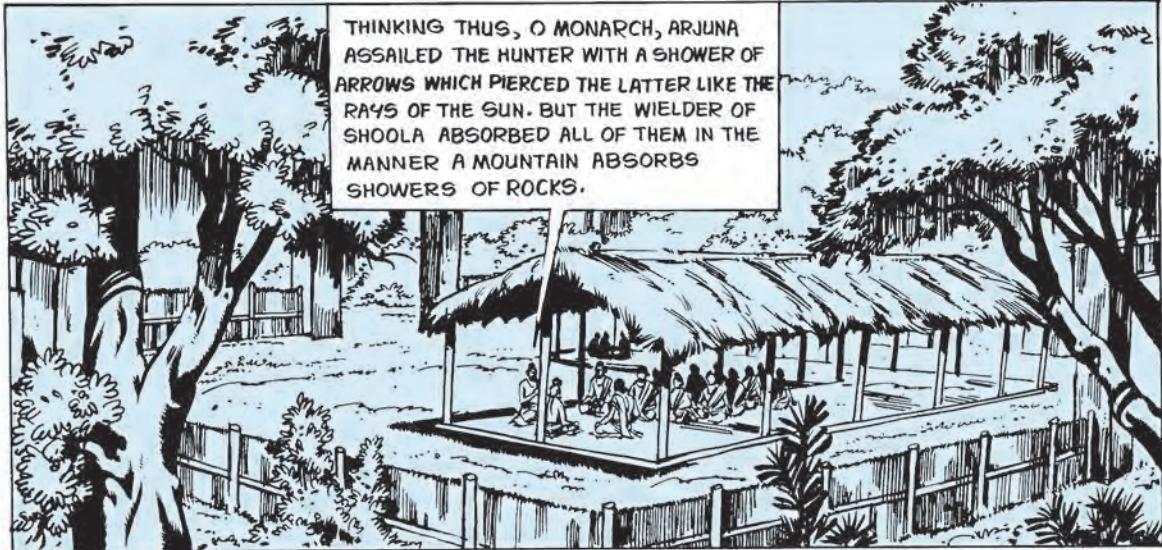


"AWED BY THE PROWESS OF HIS ADVERSARY, ARJUNA SAID IN APPRECIATION.



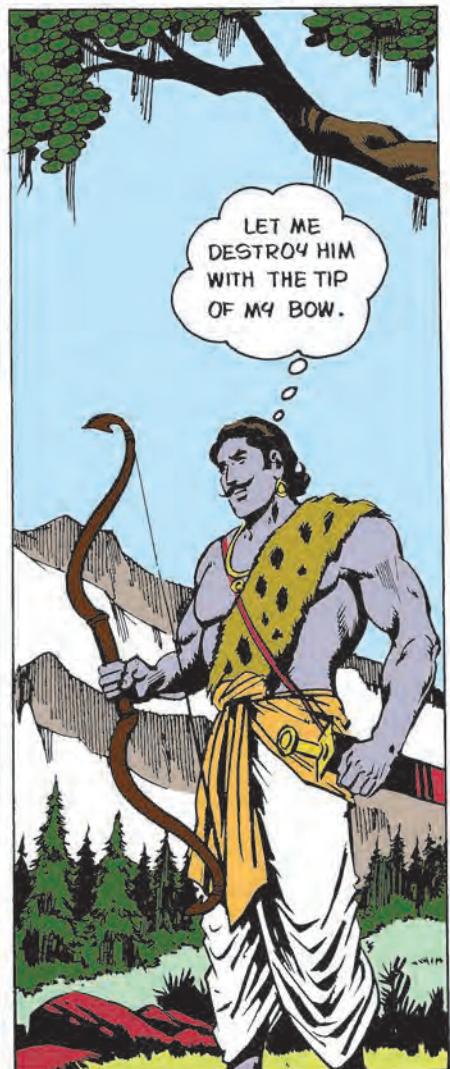
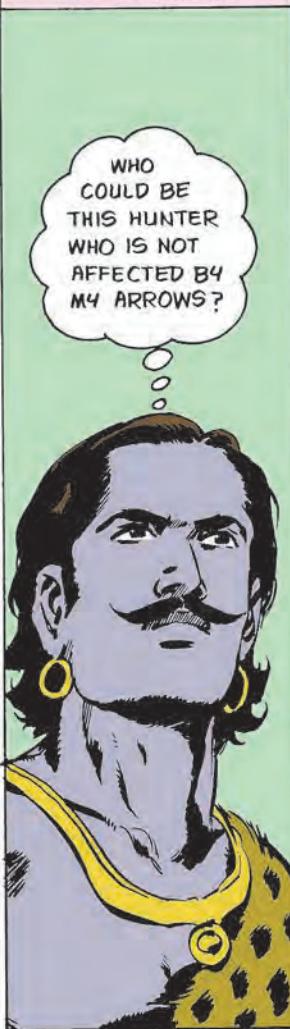
"AND HE MUTTERED:





"SOON ARJUNA NEARLY EXHAUSTED HIS ARROWS AND BECAME GREATLY ALARMED. HE REMEMBERED THAT HIS TWO QUIVERS PRESENTED BY AGNI AT THE TIME OF THE KHANDAVA-DAHANA WERE INEXHAUSTIBLE.

"HE AGAIN WONDERED:



ARJUNA'S QUEST FOR WEAPONS

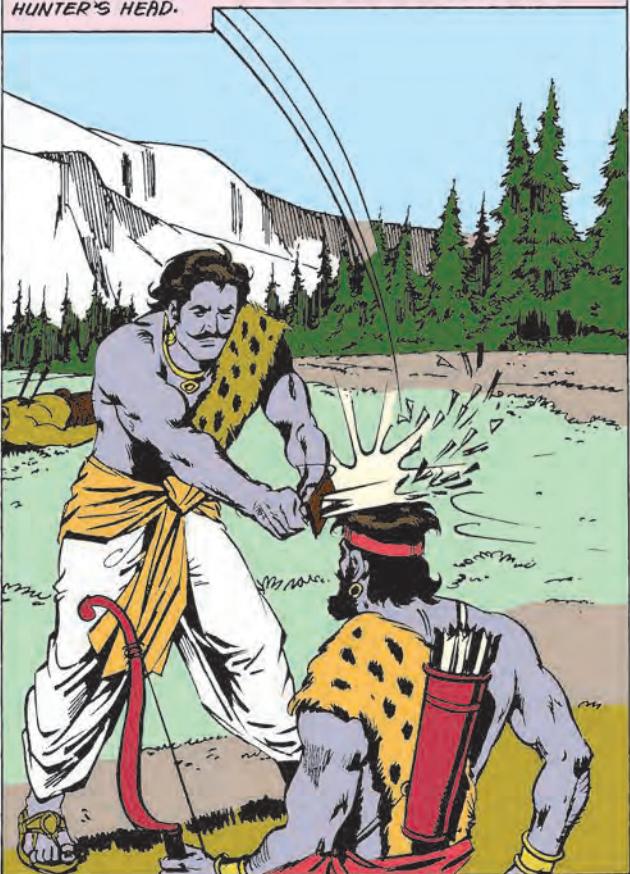
"THINKING THUS, ARJUNA ATTACKED THE HUNTER WITH HIS BOW AND ENCLOSING HIM WITHIN THE BOW-STRING, STARTED HITTING HIM WITH HIS THUNDER-LIKE FIST."



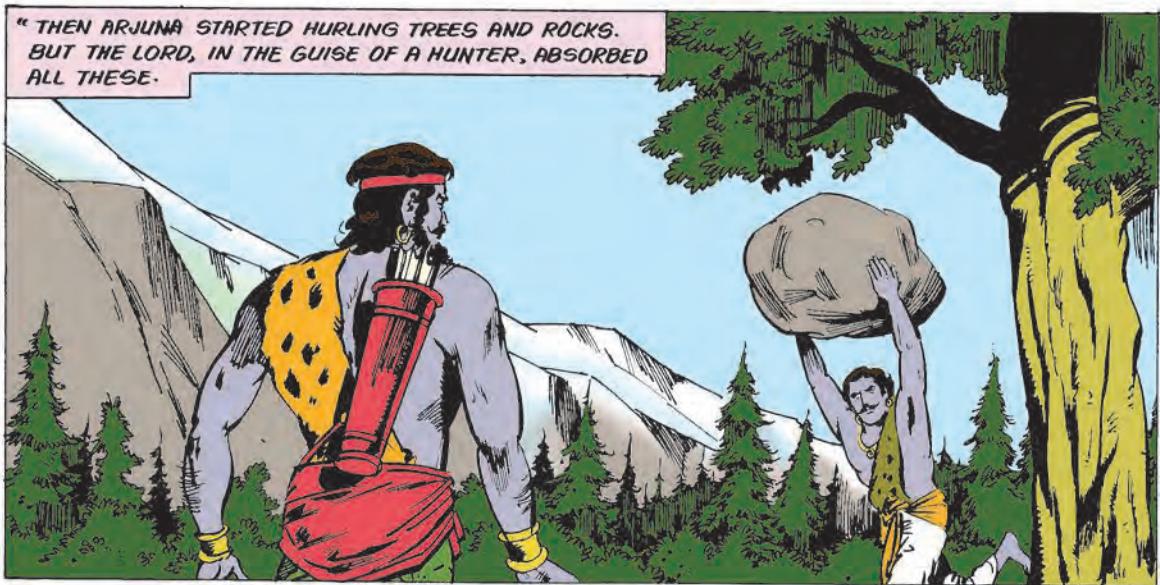
"THE HUNTER SNATCHED AWAY ARJUNA'S CELESTIAL BOW AND HAD IT CONCEALED IN HIMSELF."



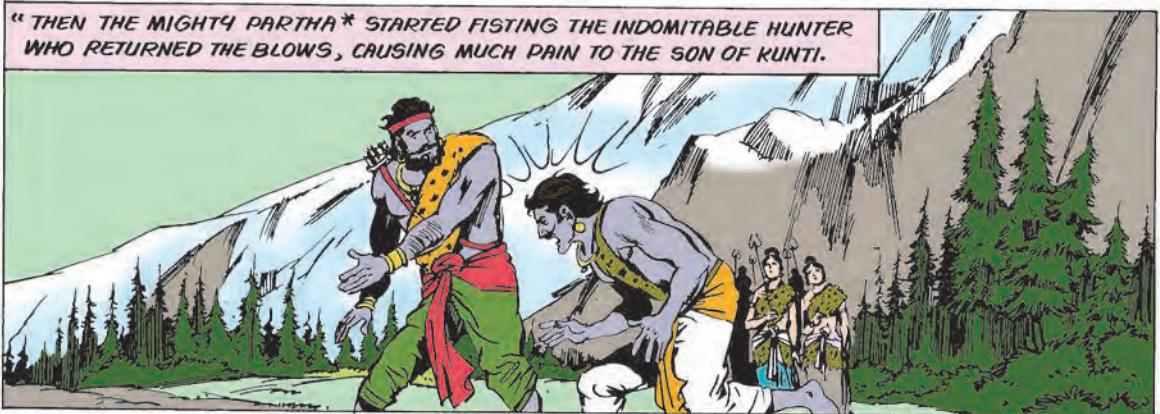
"THEN ARJUNA, DESIROUS OF ENDING THE BATTLE, TOOK A SWORD AND HIT THE HUNTER ON HIS HEAD. BUT THE SWORD, WHICH COULD CUT THROUGH A STONE, SHATTERED INTO PIECES AS SOON AS IT TOUCHED THE HUNTER'S HEAD."



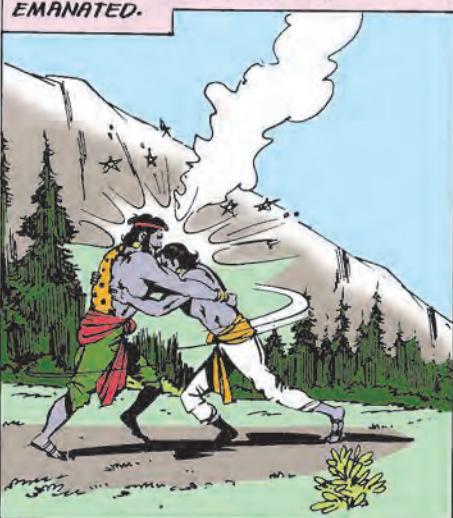
"THEN ARJUNA STARTED HURLING TREES AND ROCKS. BUT THE LORD, IN THE GUISE OF A HUNTER, ABSORBED ALL THESE."



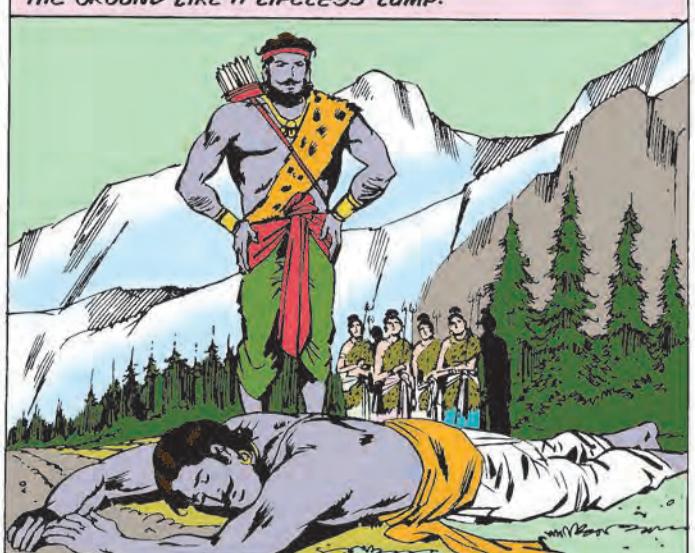
"THEN THE MIGHTY PARTHA* STARTED FISTING THE INDOMITABLE HUNTER WHO RETURNED THE BLOWS, CAUSING MUCH PAIN TO THE SON OF KUNTI."



"THEN THEY WRESTLED WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH THE RUBBING OF THEIR BODIES SPARKS AND SMOKE EMANATED."

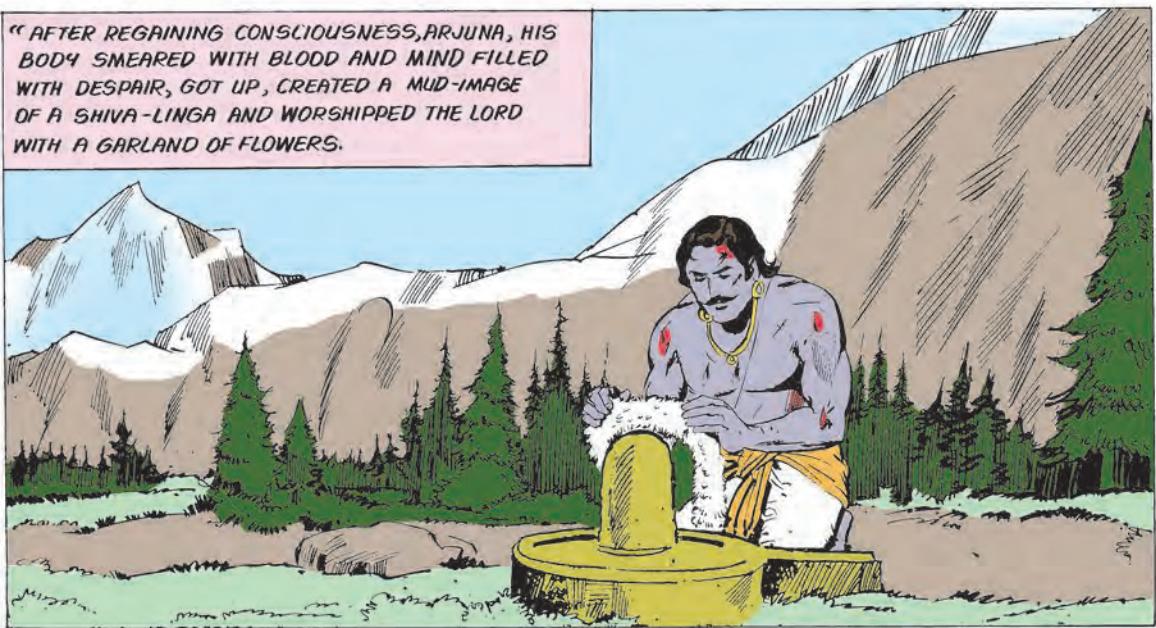


"THEN, SMOOTHERED BY SHIVA IN A HUG, ARJUNA FELL TO THE GROUND LIKE A LIFELESS LUMP."



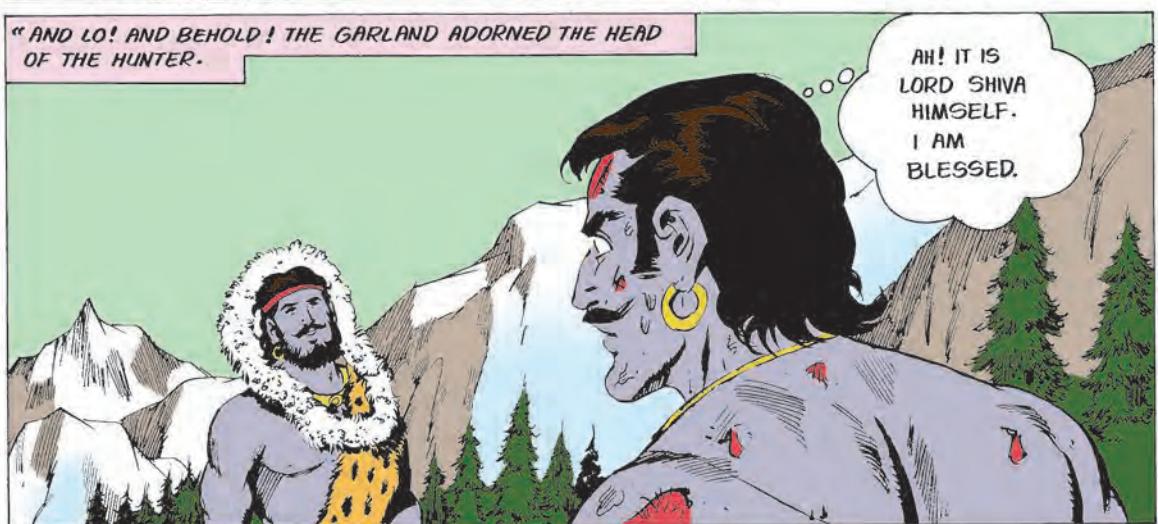
* SON OF PRITHA (ARJUNA)

"AFTER REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, ARJUNA, HIS BODY SMEARED WITH BLOOD AND MIND FILLED WITH DESPAIR, GOT UP, CREATED A MUD-IMAGE OF A SHIVA-LINGA AND WORSHIPPED THE LORD WITH A GARLAND OF FLOWERS.



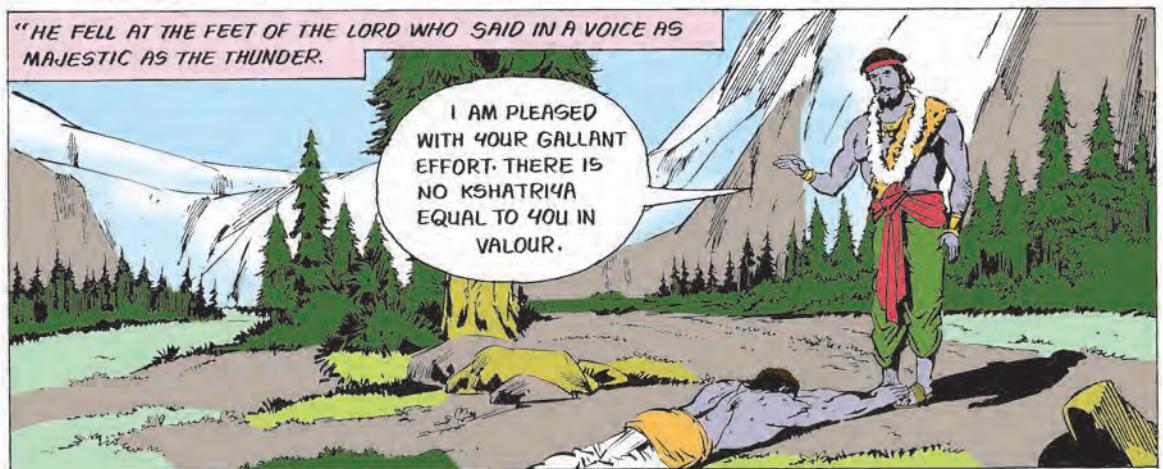
"AND LO! AND BEHOLD! THE GARLAND ADORNED THE HEAD OF THE HUNTER.

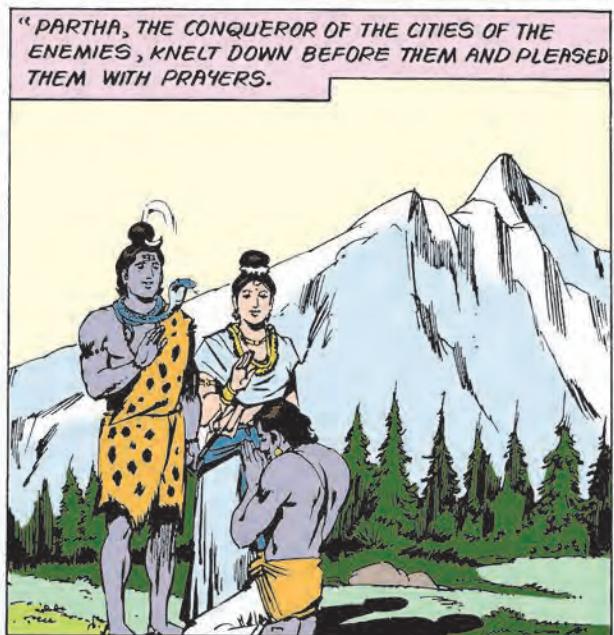
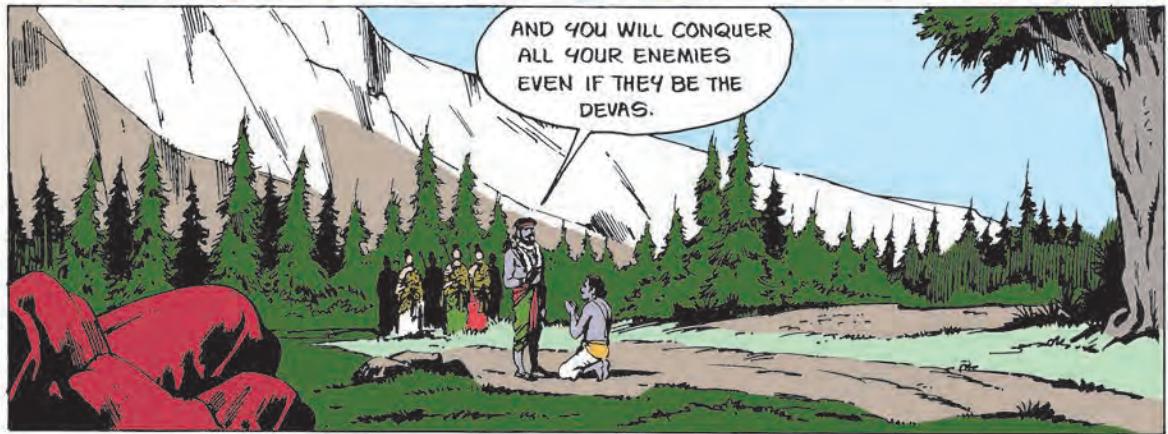
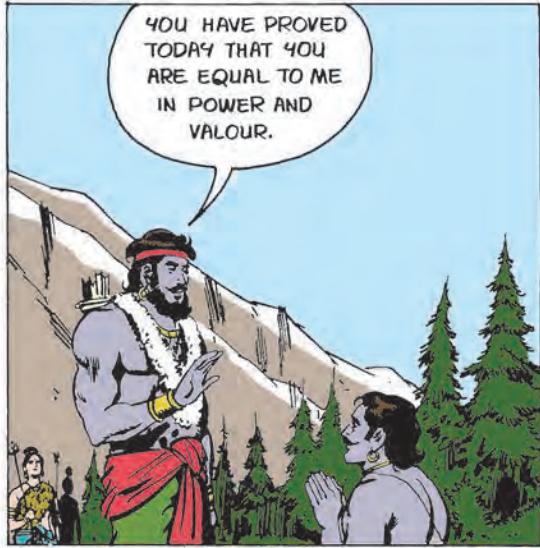
AH! IT IS
LORD SHIVA
HIMSELF.
I AM
BLESSED.

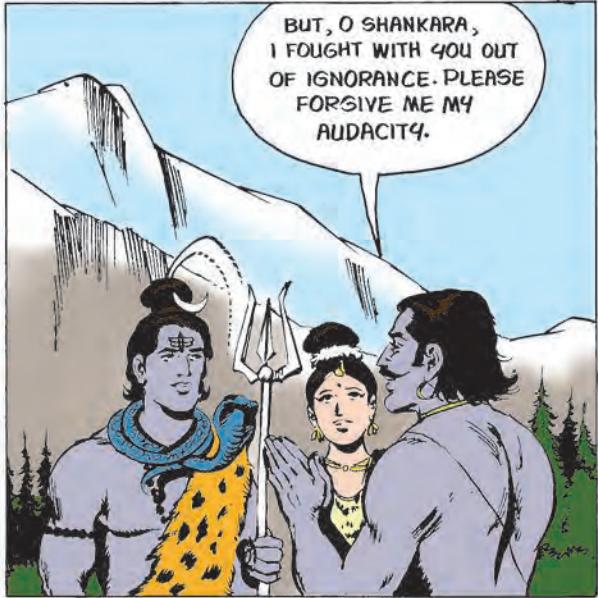
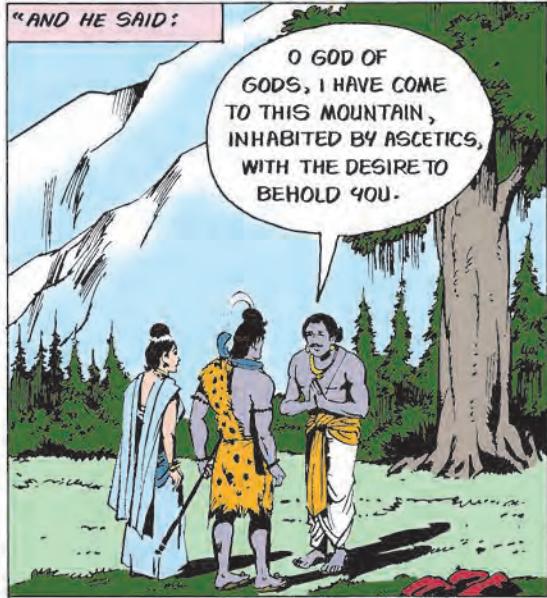


"HE FELL AT THE FEET OF THE LORD WHO SAID IN A VOICE AS MAJESTIC AS THE THUNDER.

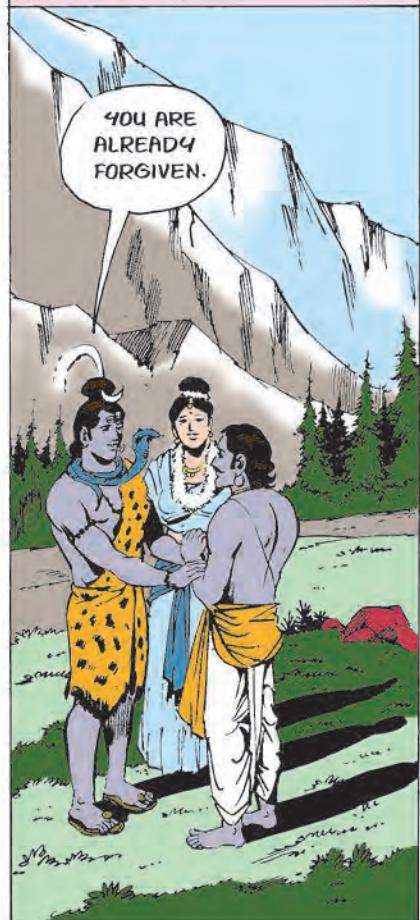
I AM PLEASED
WITH YOUR GALLANT
EFFORT. THERE IS
NO KSHATRIYA
EQUAL TO YOU IN
VALOUR.



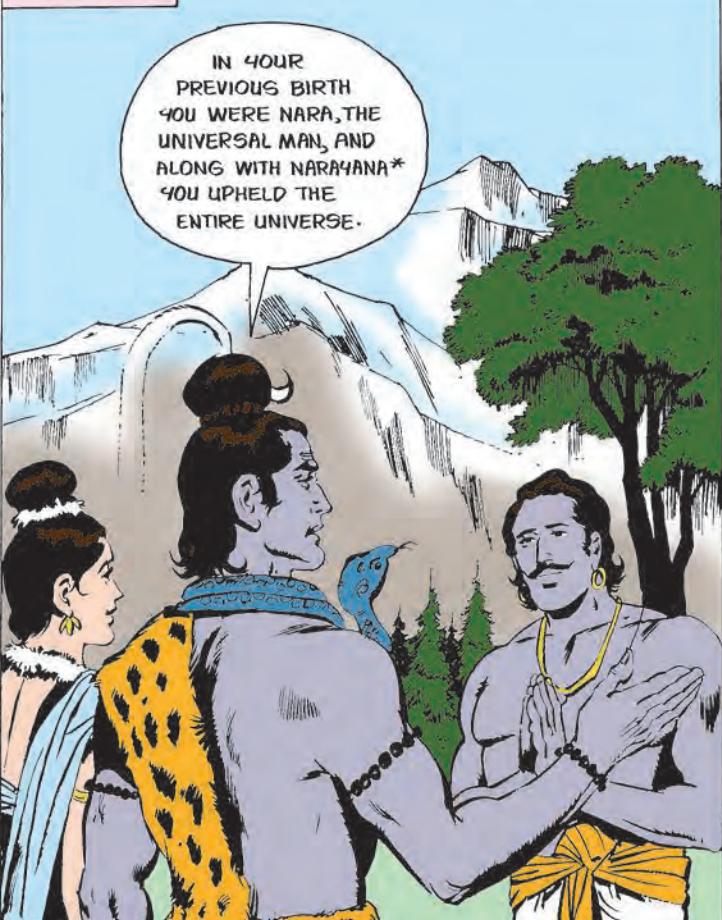


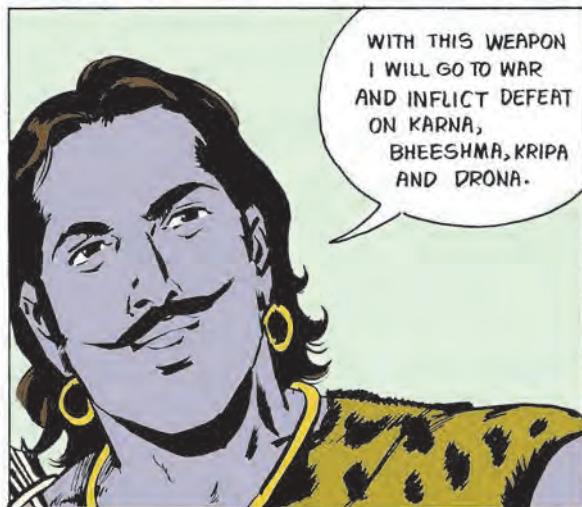
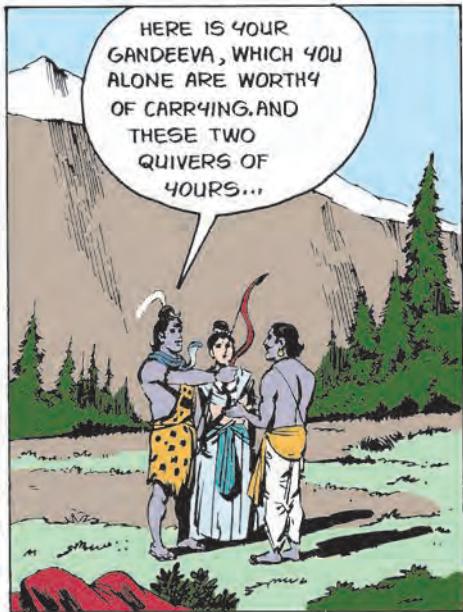


"THEN THE OMNIPOTENT GOD TOOK ARJUNA'S HAND AND SAID WITH A SMILE:

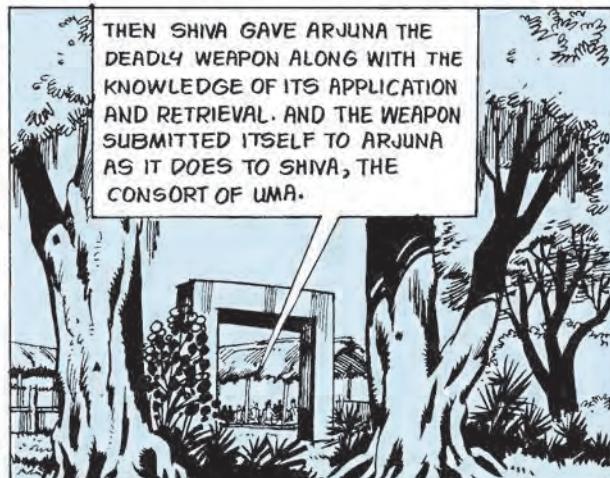
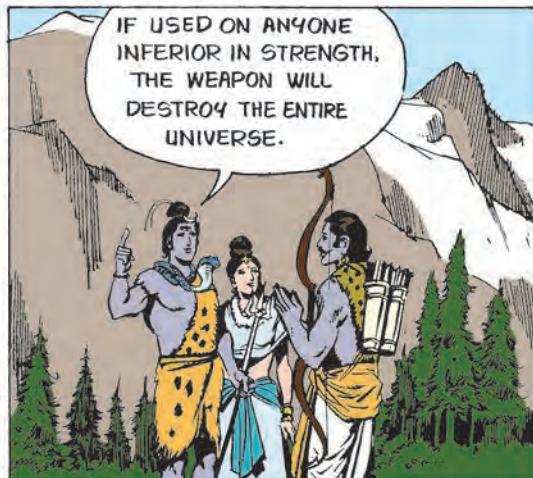
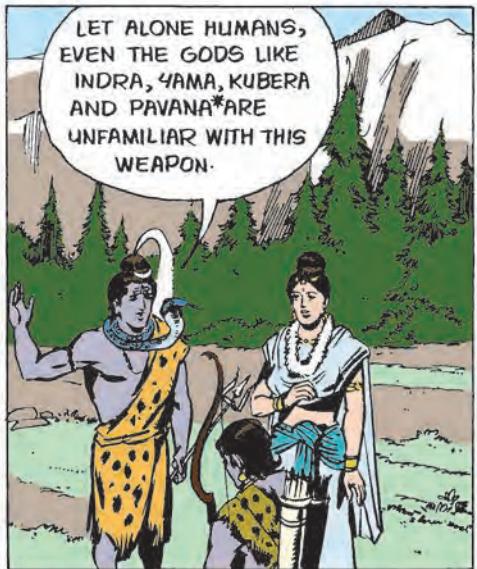


"THEN THEY EMBRACED EACH OTHER AND THE LORD, WHO HAS THE BULL FOR AN EMBLEM ON HIS FLAG, COMFORTED PARtha, SAYING:





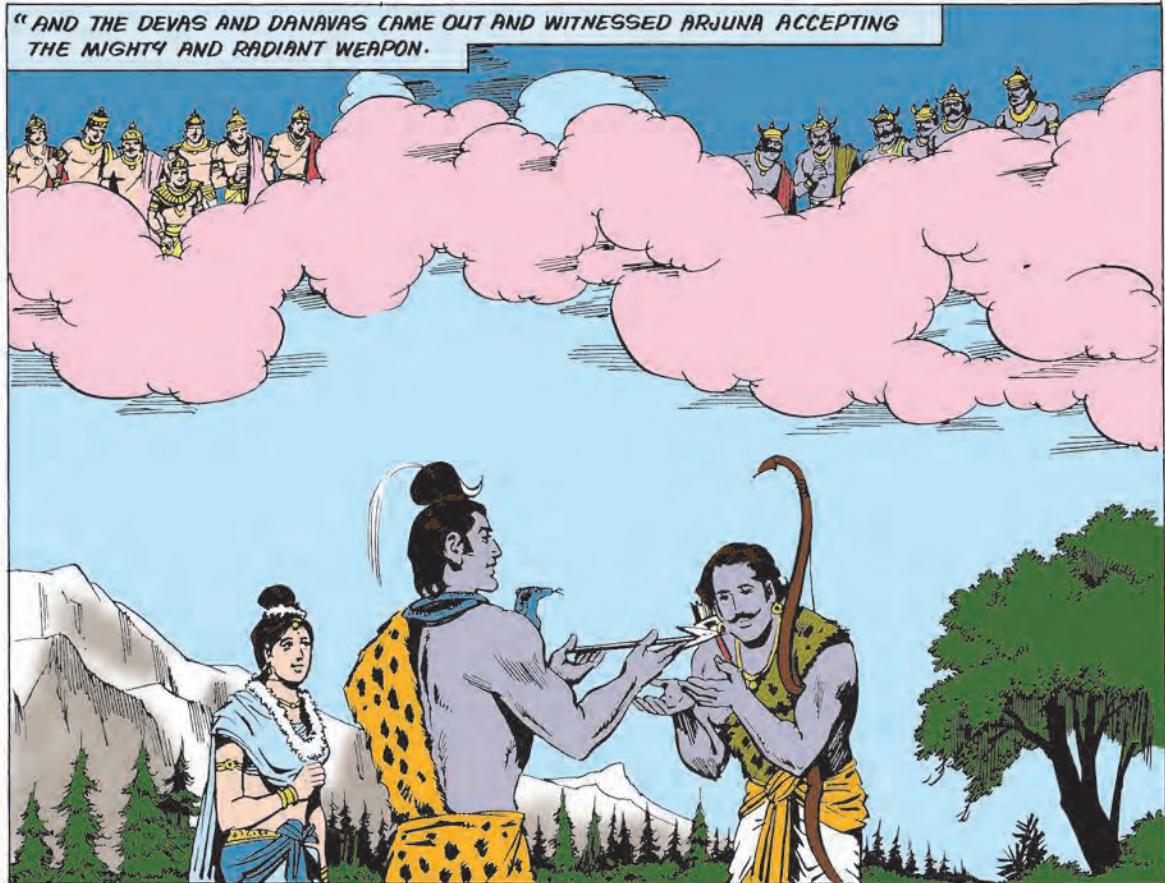
THE LORD SAID:



"AS SOON AS ARJUNA TOOK POSSESSION OF THE WEAPON, THE EARTH, ALONG WITH ITS MOUNTAINS, FORESTS, TREES, OCEANS, CITIES AND VILLAGES TREMBLED. AND THE SKY AND THE WIND VIBRATED WITH THE SOUND OF THOUSANDS OF CONCH-SHELLS, DRUMS AND TRUMPETS.



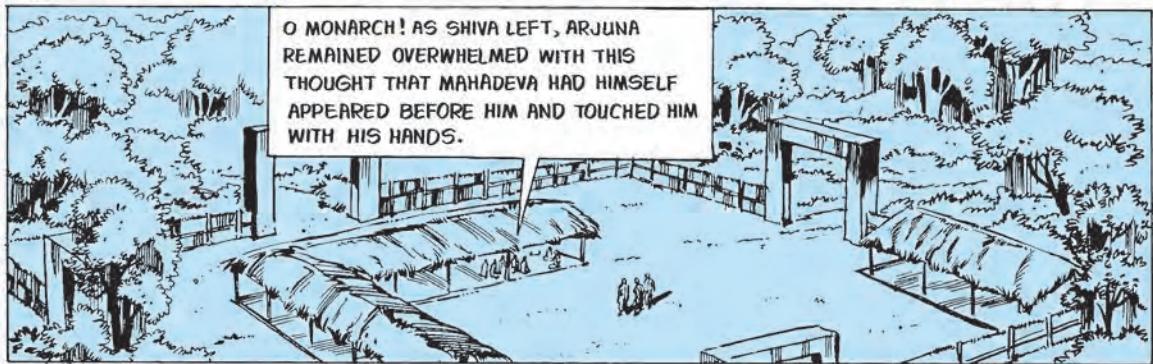
"AND THE DEVAS AND DANAVAS CAME OUT AND WITNESSED ARJUNA ACCEPTING THE MIGHTY AND RADIANT WEAPON.



"THEN, INSTRUCTING ARJUNA TO PROCEED TO HEAVEN, THE LORD OF THE DEVAS, ACCOMPANIED BY UMA, ROSE TO THE SKY AND DISAPPEARED.



O MONARCH! AS SHIVA LEFT, ARJUNA REMAINED OVERWHELMED WITH THIS THOUGHT THAT MAHADEVA HAD HIMSELF APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND TOUCHED HIM WITH HIS HANDS.

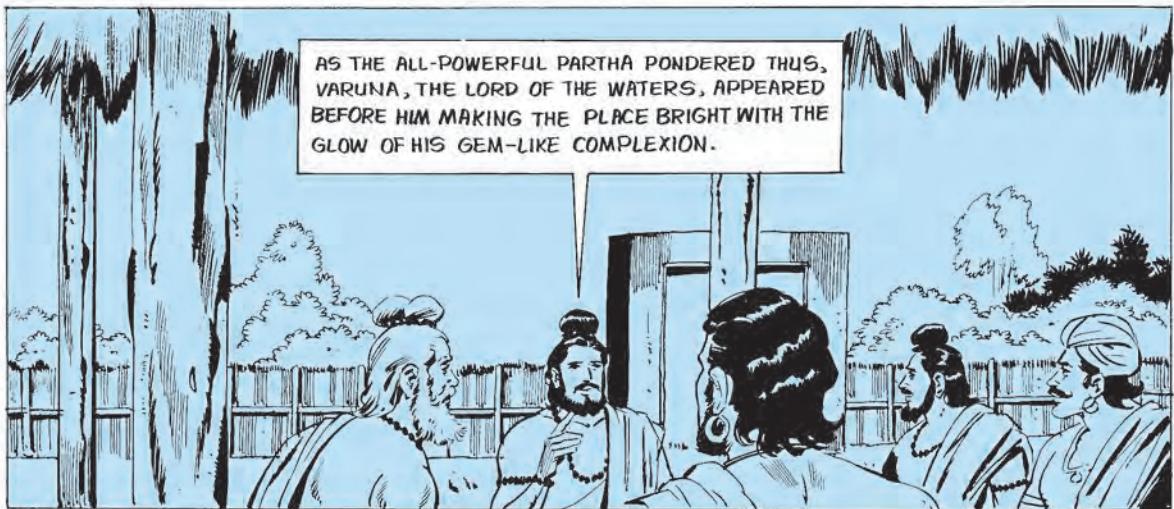


"AND THEN HE THOUGHT:

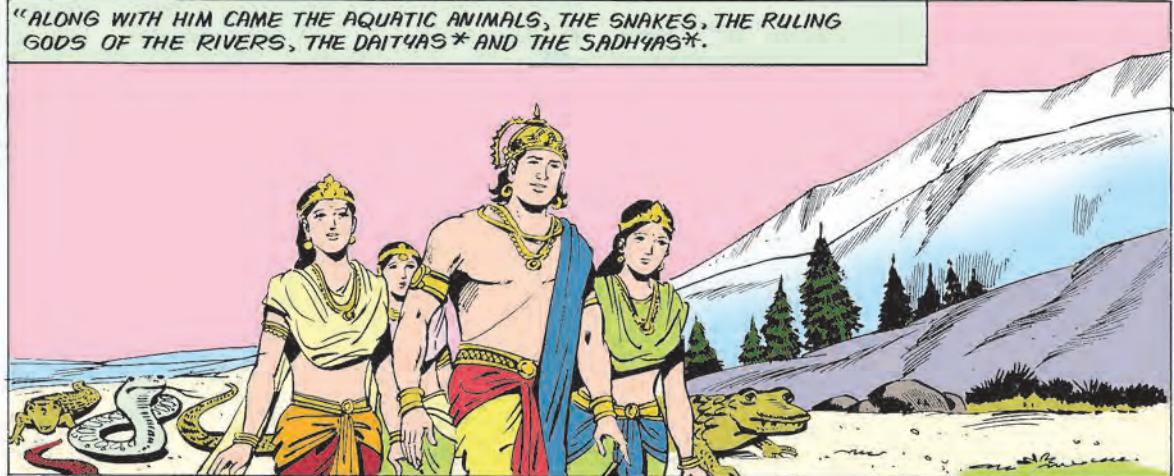
I HAVE ATTAINED MY GOAL! I HAVE AS GOOD AS CONQUERED MY ENEMIES!



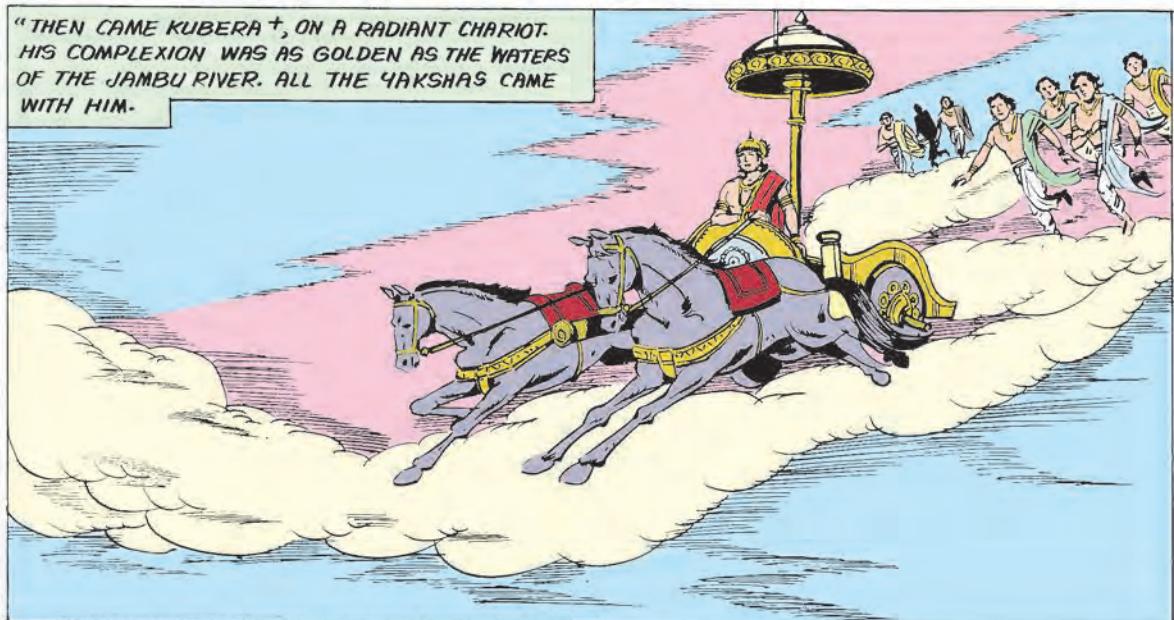
AS THE ALL-POWERFUL PARTHA PONDERED THUS, VARUNA, THE LORD OF THE WATERS, APPEARED BEFORE HIM MAKING THE PLACE BRIGHT WITH THE GLOW OF HIS GEM-LIKE COMPLEXION.



"ALONG WITH HIM CAME THE AQUATIC ANIMALS, THE SNAKES, THE RULING GODS OF THE RIVERS, THE DAITYAS* AND THE SADHYAS*.



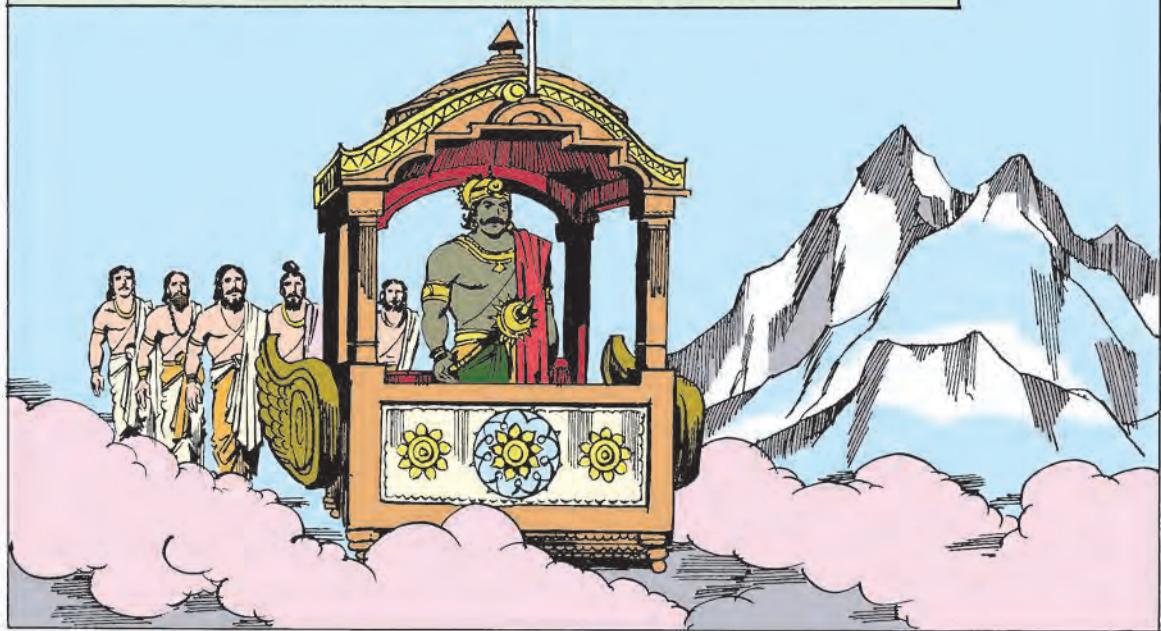
"THEN CAME KUBERA +, ON A RADIANT CHARIOT. HIS COMPLEXION WAS AS GOLDEN AS THE WATERS OF THE JAMBU RIVER. ALL THE YAKSHAS CAME WITH HIM.



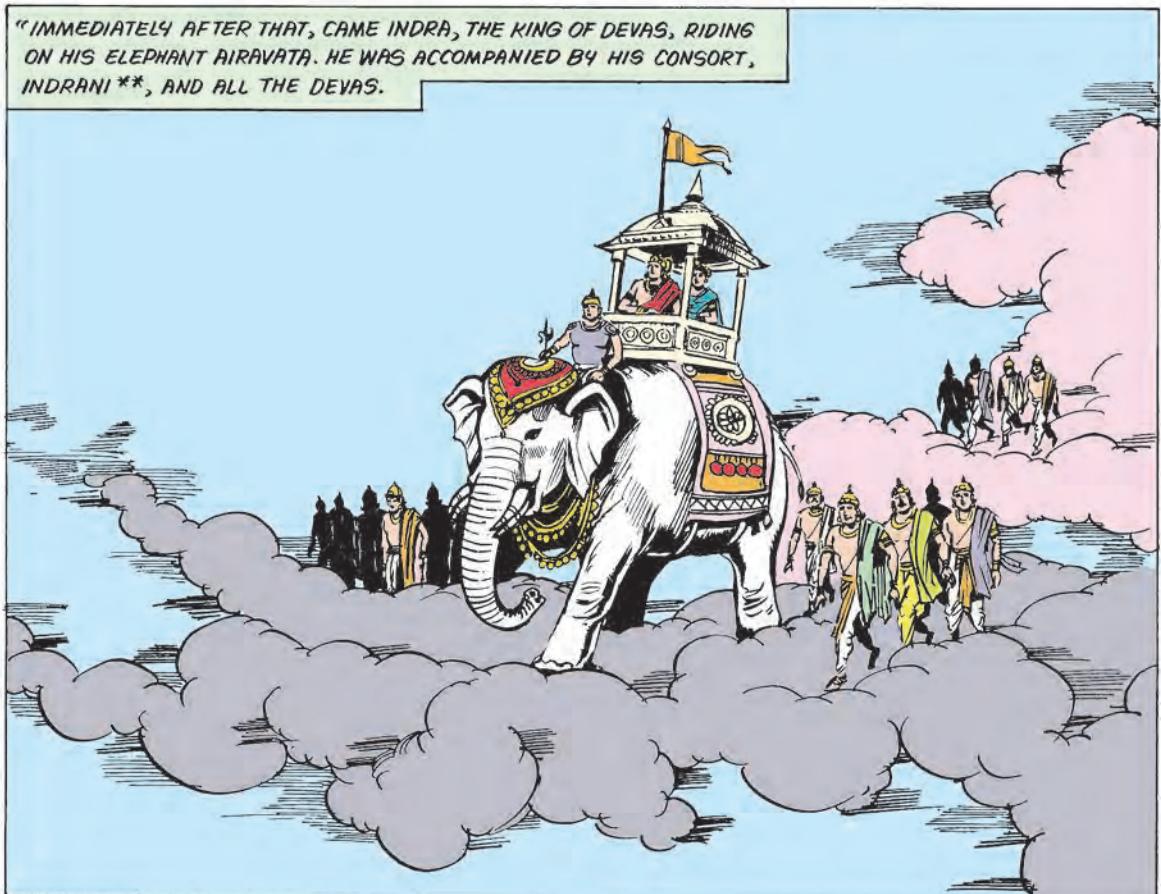
* DIFFERENT KINDS OF BEINGS

+ GOD OF WEALTH.

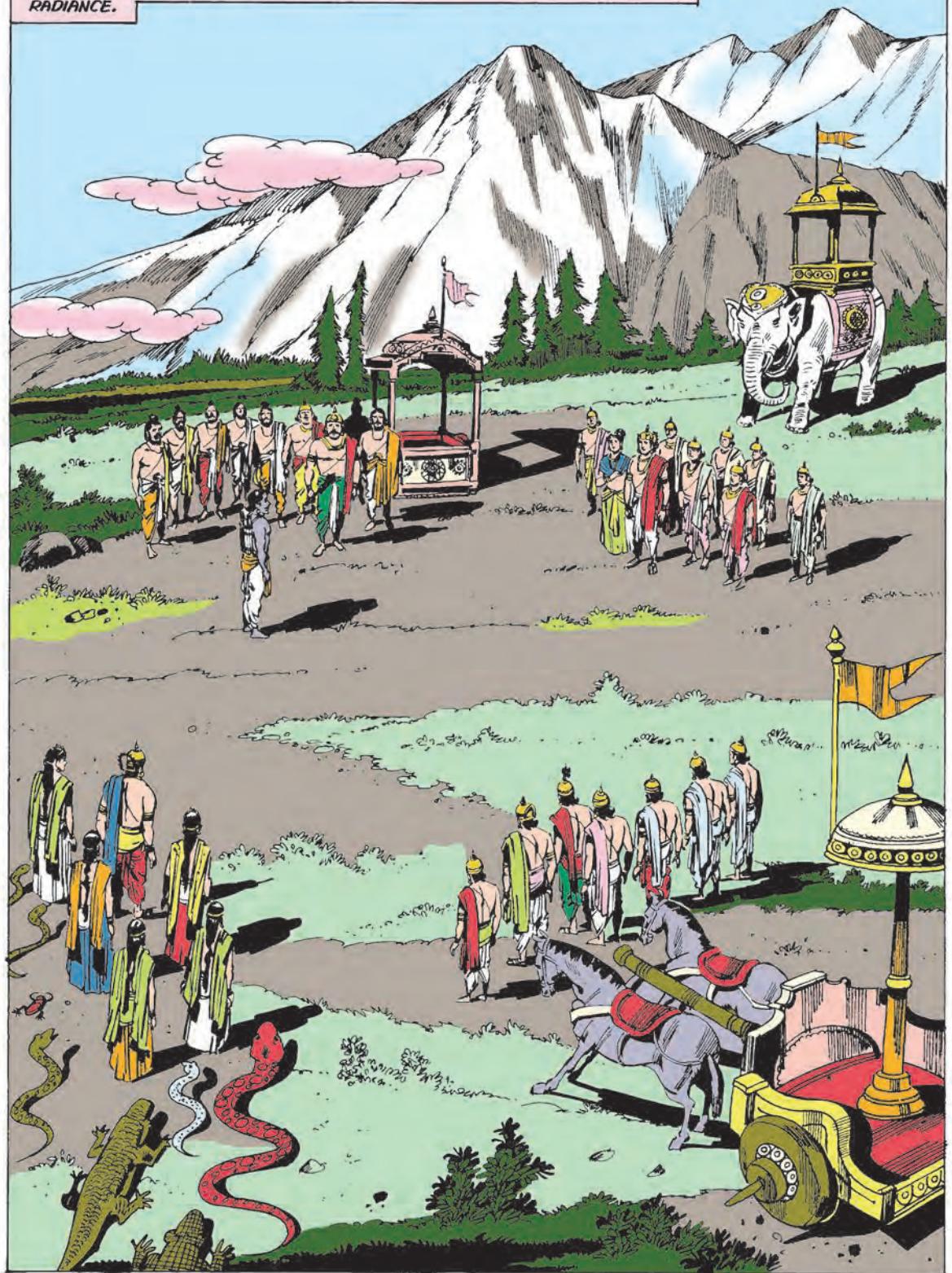
"IN ANOTHER VIMANA* CAME YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF ALL THE CREATURES. HE, THE SON OF SURYA, CARRIED IN HIS HAND THE DANDA, THE ROD OF DESTINY, AND CAME WITH THE ANCESTRAL SPIRITS OF MEN, IN HUMAN FORMS.



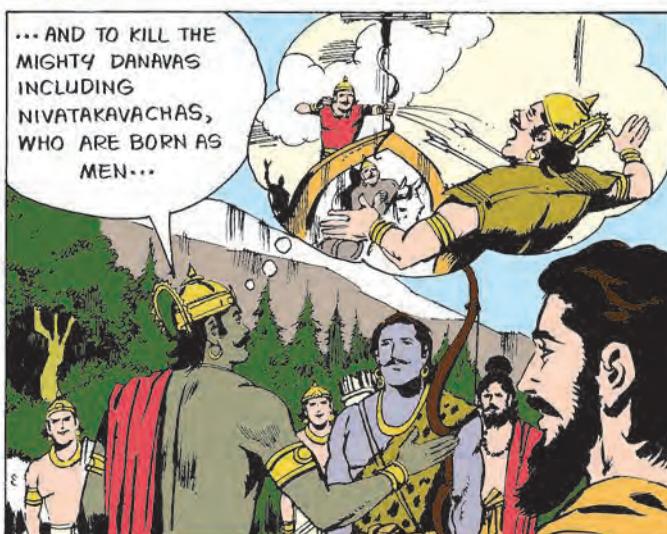
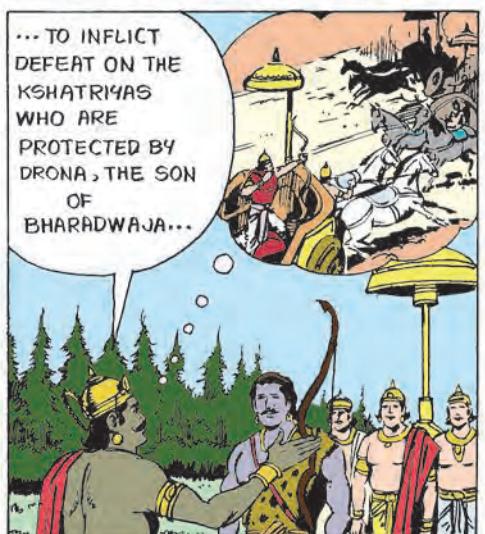
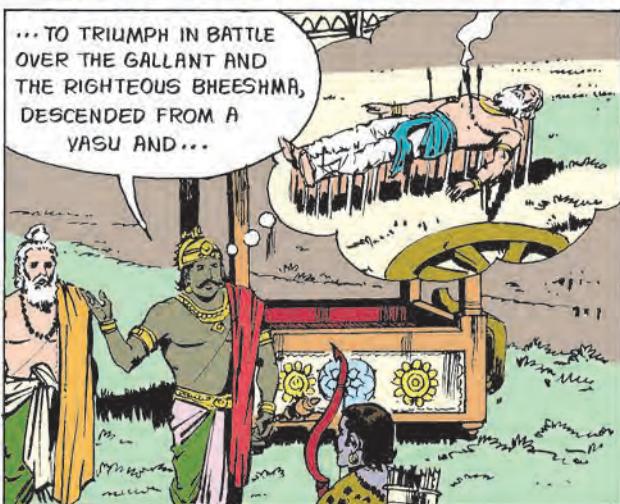
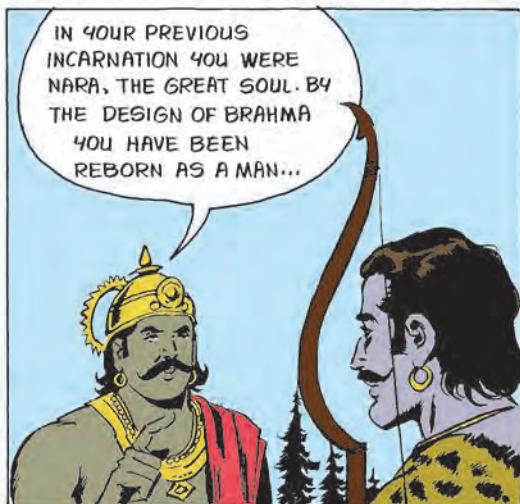
"IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT, CAME INDRA, THE KING OF DEVAS, RIDING ON HIS ELEPHANT AIRAVATA. HE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY HIS CONSORT, INDRANI **, AND ALL THE DEVAS.

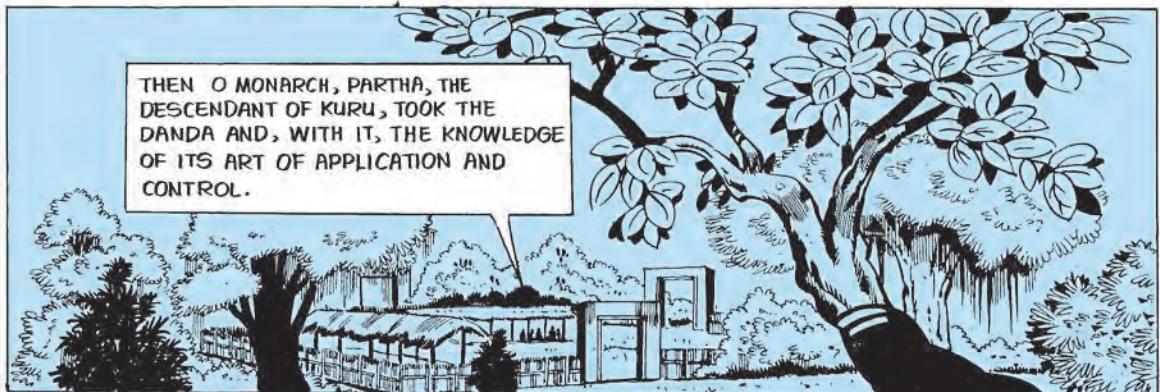
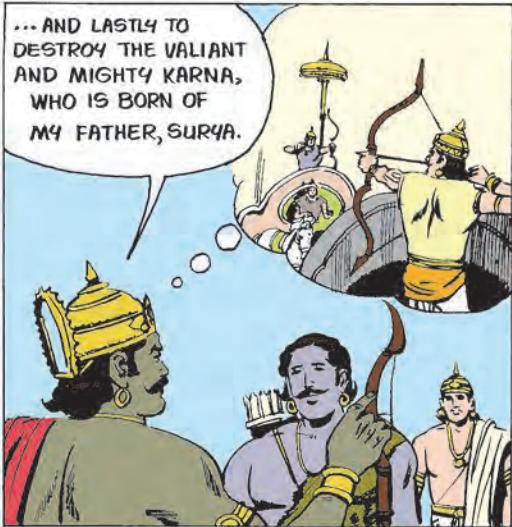


"THEY ALL DESCENDED ON THE GLOWING AND COLOURFUL PEAK OF THE GREAT MOUNTAIN AND WATCHED ARJUNA WHO NOW HAD IMMEASURABLE RADIANCE.

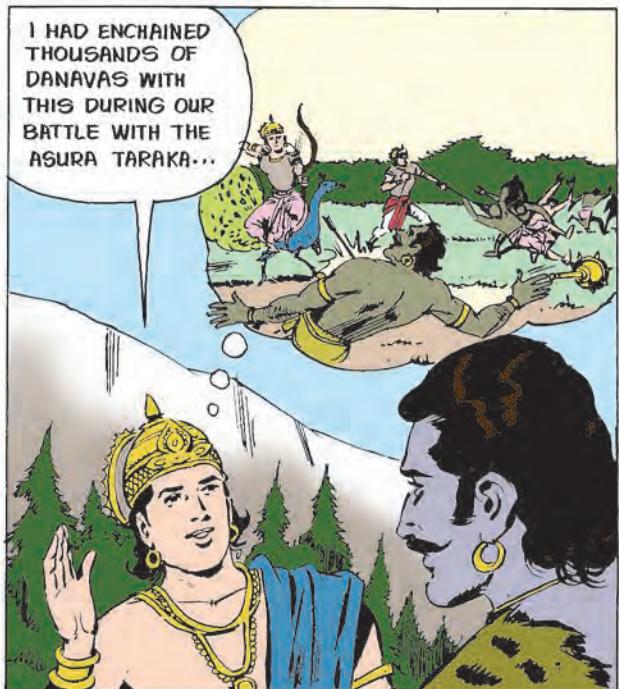
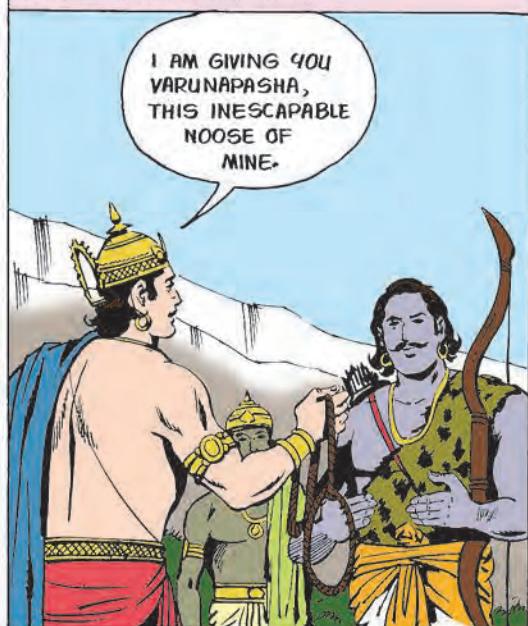


"THEN YAMA, THE MASTER OF DHARMA, WHO HAD STATIONED HIMSELF IN THE SOUTH, SAID IN A THUNDERING VOICE:





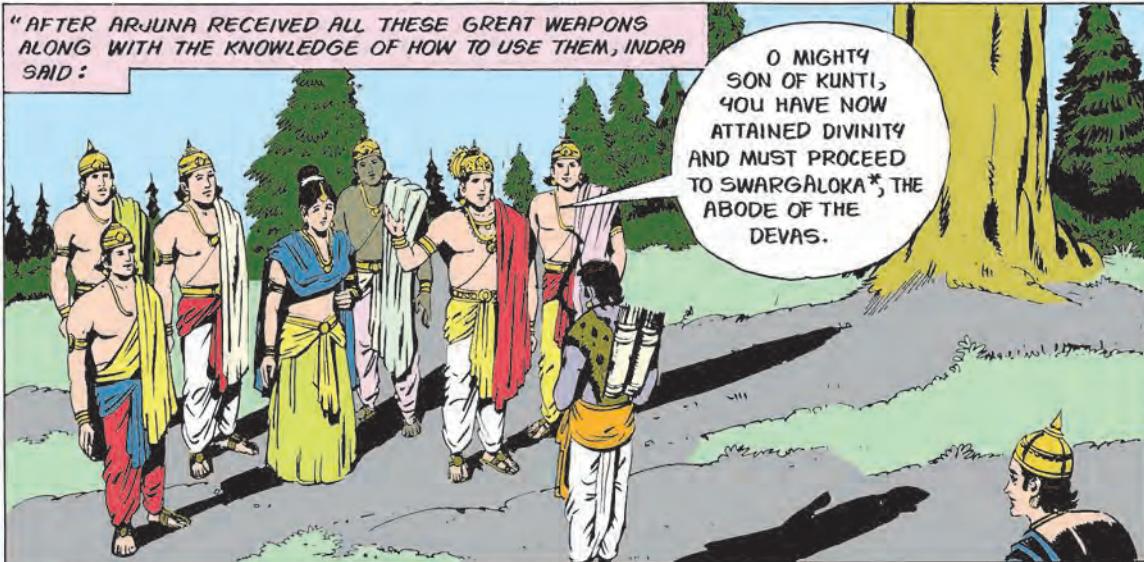
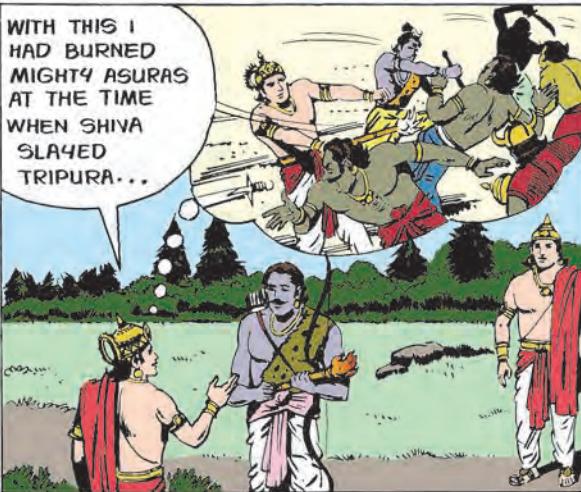
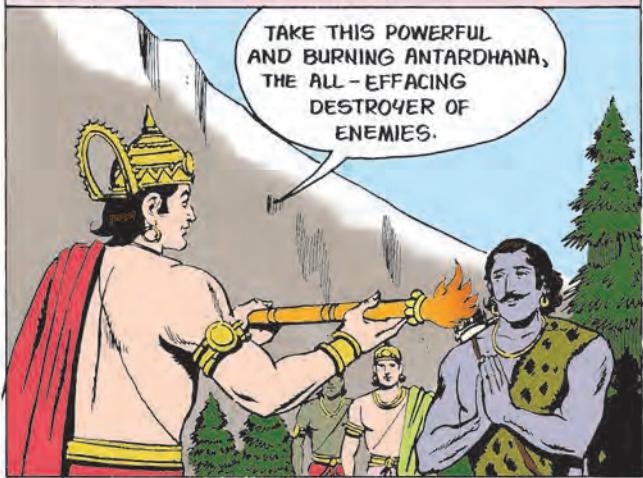
"THEN VARUNA, WHO WAS STATIONED IN THE WESTERN HORIZON, SAID:



... AND, IF YOU DESIRE TO FIND EVEN YAMA WITH THIS, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE.

"THEN KUBERA, THE TREASURER OF THE DEVAS AND A RESIDENT OF MOUNT KAILASA, SAID:

TAKE THIS POWERFUL AND BURNING ANTARDHANA, THE ALL-EFFACING DESTROYER OF ENEMIES.



* HEAVEN

